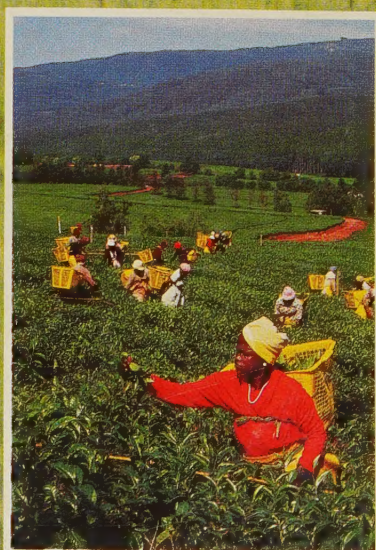
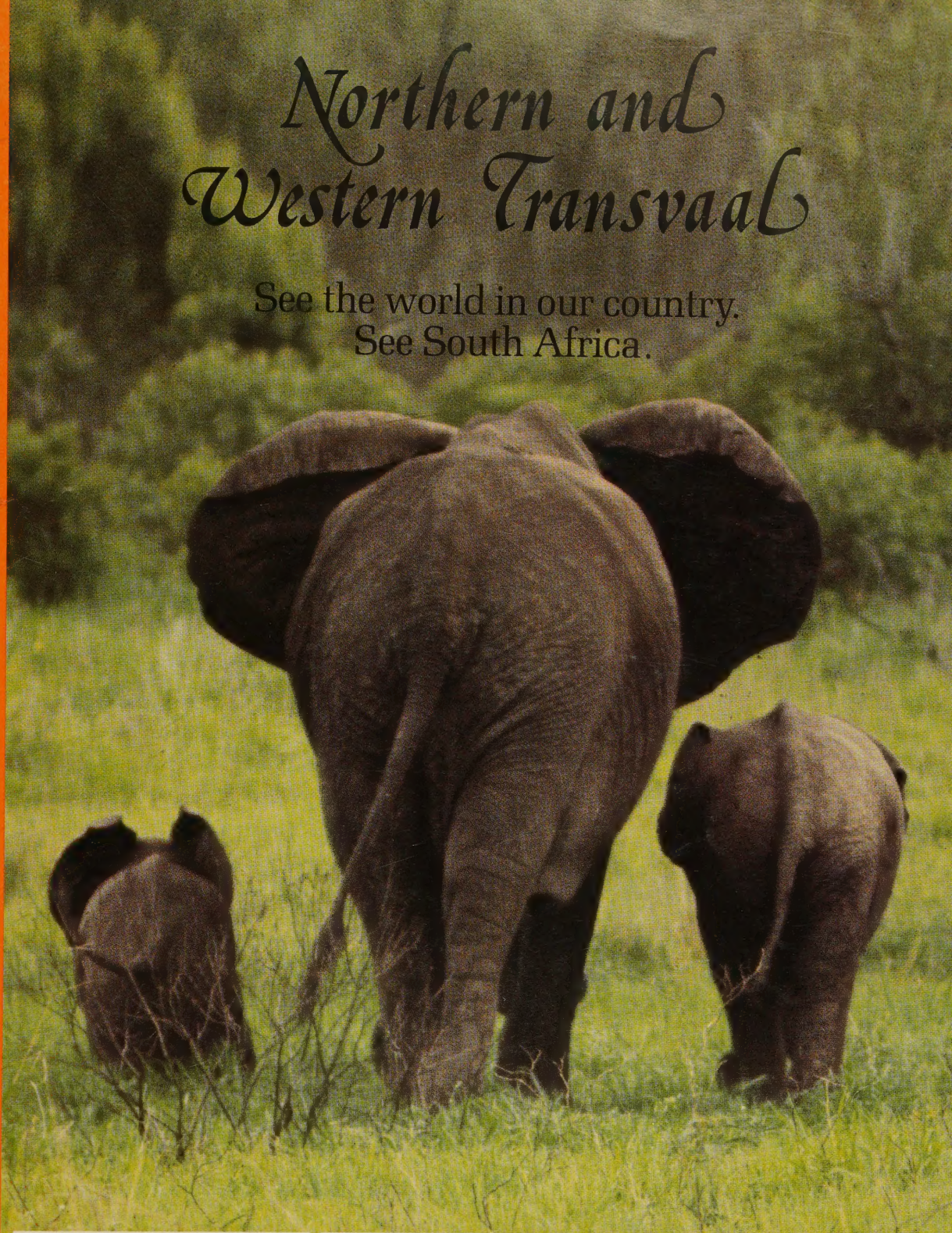


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- Natal
- Eastern Transvaal
- Northern and Western Transvaal
- Pretoria, Johannesburg and Southern Transvaal

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NOTE ON CONTENTS

- This brochure is not a comprehensive study of the Northern and Western Transvaal, but rather a travel guide for the use of those in search of insights into an area which offers a rich and varied spectrum.
- Information on accommodation appears in the South African Tourism Board's guides: *Where to stay* and *Guide to Caravan Parks and Holiday Resorts*.

- A list of addresses and telephone numbers of South African Tourism Board offices appears on the back page.
- National Monuments are indicated by NM.
- In the interest of safety, motorists are urged to slow down when travelling along gravel roads. Tyre pressure should also be reduced.



Republic of South Africa



Profile of the Area

G M Elliott Library
Cincinnati Christian University
2700 Glenway
P O Box 04320
Cincinnati, OH 45204-3200

The Northern and Western Transvaal is a land of dramatic contrasts characterised by wide open plains and majestic mountains, primeval indigenous forests and latter-day plantations, ancient mountain fortresses and cultures and contemporary dwellings and peoples. It is a land where ultramodern mining methods are practised by some, whilst others pour over antiquated centrifugal washers and sorting slabs.

A land where the juxtaposition of old and new never ceases to amaze, it

is moreover a land of legend and romance that will intrigue the 20th century pragmatist with tales of ancient tribes and fearless pioneers who braved the unknown in the days of old.

Much of the land, particularly in the Kruger National Park and other game and nature reserves, still appears the way it has been for centuries and provides sanctuary to large numbers of game. And for those who wish to experience the thrill of Africa in a more tangible way, wilderness areas and trails or

hunting safaris may provide the solution.

The region also encompasses the independent states of Venda and Bophuthatswana and the self-governing states of Lebowa and Gazankulu.

The beauty and infinite variety of the area not only delight all who experience it, but entice visitors back again and again. Modern towns, good roads and fine accommodation establishments enable tourists to enjoy to the full this wonderful region.



REFERENCE TO MAPS

Freeways with intersections	
National routes	
Principal trunk roads	
Main roads	
Secondary roads	
Railways	
National boundaries	
Provincial boundaries	
Distances in kilometres	

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General Information

FISHING

All freshwater anglers over the age of 16 require a licence obtainable from Receiver of Revenue offices, post offices, magistrate's offices and most sports shops at a cost of R5,00 per annum. Notice should be taken of the

number of fish permitted per angler. Live bait may not be used. There is no closed season for freshwater angling.

Year-round trout angling is permitted. Due to a summer rainfall which discolours most of the streams, the preferred angling period is however from March to September. Trout licences are required and are obtainable as above at a cost of R8,00 per annum.

Further Information

Transvaal Division of Nature Conservation

Private Bag X209

PRETORIA 0001

Call (012) 201 2361 or 28 5761/2/3/4

HIKING

A number of hiking trails and walks lead through scenic countryside in the Northern and Western Transvaal. Hikers are urged to:

1. Stay on the marked route: deviations may cause erosion.
2. Neither pick nor uproot wild flowers: many species of plants are protected.
3. Check the weather forecast for

- the area before setting out.
4. Leave no litter.

For further details, consult the South African Tourism Board's brochure 'Follow the Footprints'.

HUNTING

Year-round hunting is possible on various private game ranches and game reserves throughout the area. The cooler winter months from March to September are however recommended as being the best period. The services of professional hunters, trackers and skimmers are available.

Further Information

Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa

PO Box 781175

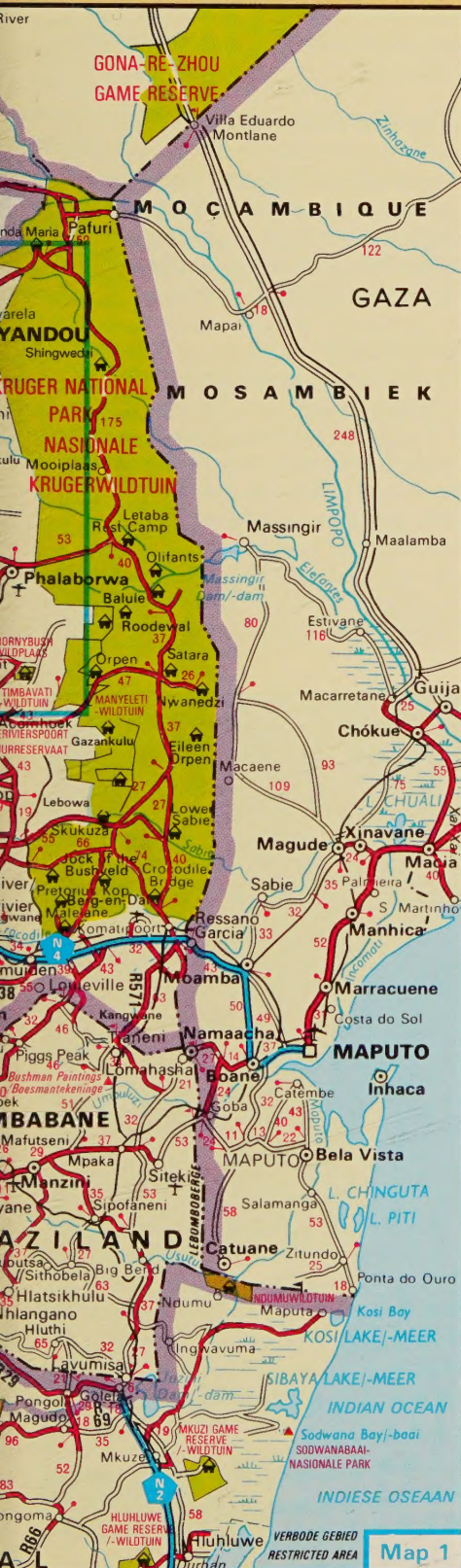
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Pietersburg and the Area North of the City

PIETERSBURG

Wide streets lined with jacaranda and coral trees, colourful parks and gardens, soothing fountains and many striking sculptures by prominent artists in public areas, provide an attractive setting for this busy commercial centre and principal town of the Northern Transvaal. Founded in 1886, it was named after Commandant-General Pieter Joubert.

In striking contrast to the many contemporary buildings in town are elegant buildings and homes reminiscent of an age gone by. The late Victorian age Irish House on the corner of Market and Vorster Streets has been declared a national monument and moves are afoot to convert it into a museum. Another fine example is the gracious home of Doel Zeederberg, coach magnate who pioneered a passenger stage coach service between Pietersburg and Bulawayo in 1894 which, despite the hazards of bandits and highwaymen, malaria and blackwater, functioned successfully for many years. The house is situated on the corner of Voortrekker and Marshall Streets and may be seen from the road.

With comfortable accommodation establishments, interesting sights and easy access to an area which has much to offer the tourist, the town is the ideal starting point from which to explore the Northern Transvaal.

THINGS TO DO AND SEE

Civic Centre and Square

Bounded by Landdros Maré, Vorster, Church and Bodenstein Streets. Enhanced by beautifully landscaped gardens with walkways, streams and ponds. The *Municipal Offices* on the Square house an impressive *Art Collection* which may be viewed by appointment. The *Jack Botes Hall* is a venue for congresses, civic functions and cultural performances. The adjacent *Conservatory* houses a wealth of exotic plants which will delight both the horticulturist and the layman. A picturesque *Bandstand* dating from the 1920's is situated on the south-western corner of the square. The restored Dutch Reformed Church, originally built in 1880, has been converted into a *Photographic Museum* housing the *Hugh Exton Glass Negative Collection* which depicts interesting aspects of the

city's colourful past. Open Mon.-Fri. 08h00-17h00. The *South African Tourism Board's Pietersburg Office* is situated on the square's north-eastern corner. Call (01521) 3025.

Exhibition of Historic Memorabilia

Landdros Maré Street Extension. An open-air exhibition including an old gold ore crusher, steam locomotive and various agricultural implements of the past.

Industrial Works of Art

Northern entrance to town. An open-air exhibition featuring large abstract works of art made from discarded industrial material by, amongst others, Eduardo Villa, Guillaume Theron and Danie Joubert.

Molten Guns

Cnr of Grobler and Hans van Rensburg Streets, on the eastern side of the Public Library. An unusual 'work of art' consisting of the molten remains of rifles that were burnt after they were confiscated from members of Chief Makgoba's tribe who were defeated by the forces of the *Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek* (the former Transvaal Republic) in 1895.



PIETERSBURG'S CIVIC SQUARE



BAKONE MALAPA OPEN AIR MUSEUM



SCENIC DRIVE, LOUIS TRICHARDT

ACCOMMODATION

Comfortable hotel accommodation is available in the town and immediate environs. The municipal caravan park offers camping and caravan sites as well as fully equipped rondavels.

AIRPORT, STATION, RENT-A-CAR

Airport: situated some four kilometres south of the town. Regular scheduled flights operate between Pietersburg and Jan Smuts.

Information and Reservations: call (01521) 5129.

Station: Market Street Extension.

Information and Reservations: call (01521) 6 9111 and 69 2203 respectively.

Rent-A-Car: Consult the local telephone directory or your hotel porter.

HOW TO GET TO PIETERSBURG

Pietersburg lies on the N1 national road approximately halfway between Pretoria and the Zimbabwean border, 336 km from Johannesburg, 1 757 km from Cape Town and 938 km from Durban. The town lies on the main railway line to the north and is also served by a luxury coach service which operates three times a week from Johannesburg. In addition two airlines provide daily scheduled return flights from Johannesburg.

CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

Pietersburg is situated on an open grass-covered plateau at an altitude of 1 312 m above sea level. The climate is invigorating with the annual mean maximum 24,4°C and the minimum 10,9°C. Nights are cool to cold throughout the year due to an inflow of cool air from the adjacent Lowveld. Average annual rainfall is 500 mm.

RECREATION AND EXCURSIONS

Sports amenities provide for tennis, cricket, hockey, squash, badminton, netball and angling. An olympic-sized pool is located on the corner of Vorster and Burger Streets. Further facilities include a modern rugby stadium, a trim gym, an 18-hole golf course and bowling greens. A flying club operates from the local airport. A show is held annually in April/May.

Bakone Malapa Open-Air Museum

Situated nine kilometres south of Pietersburg on the Chuniespoort/Burgersfort Road at the foot of a large granite outcrop typical of the area around Pietersburg. Comprises a traditional North Sotho Bakone kraal with tribesmen practising age-old skills for the benefit of visitors. An interesting information centre provides historical background. Conducted tours are available daily:

08h30, 10h00, 12h30, 13h30 and 14h45. Besides archaeological remains and rock paintings dating back to approximately 1000 A.D., the remains of Ndebele iron and copper smelting activities may be seen in the area. The terrain offers scope for long walks. Braai facilities are available in the picnic area. Open daily: 08h15-11h00, 12h30-15h15. Closed Tuesday afternoons, Good Friday, Ascension Day and Christmas Day. Admission is charged.

Fort Campbell Memorial Column (NM)

Located at Marabastad some 14 km south of Pietersburg on the farm Eerstegoud just east of the N1 highway. The remains of a British fort besieged for 105 days during the Transvaal War of Independence (1880-1881) may be seen here. Permission to view must be obtained from the owner of the farm. Call (01521) 6363.

Louis Trichardt Memorial

Next to the N1 approximately six kilometres north of Pietersburg. Commemorates the epic trek of the Voortrekker leader Louis Trichardt to Delagoa Bay in 1837.

Municipal Game Reserve

Adjacent to Union Park some five kilometres south of the town. The reserve, approximately 2 500 ha in extent, comprises a varying landscape of grassland, small pockets of dense bush and rocky outcrops. Aloes abound, creating a beautiful spectacle in winter. A large variety of game, including blesbok, springbok, eland, gemsbok, kudu, Burchell's zebra, sable antelope, wildebeest and white rhino flourish here. Open 1 Sept.-31 March 07h00-18h00; 1 April-31 Aug. 08h00-17h00. Admission is charged. *Information:* call (01521) 6468.

Union Park

Situated five kilometres south of the town. Offers shady trees, braai facilities, a children's playground and a dam where angling is permitted. Open daily. Accommodation at the adjacent municipal caravan park where camping, caravan sites and rondavels are available. *Information:* call (01521) 6468.

TOURIST INFORMATION

South African Tourism Board's Pietersburg Office. See back page.

TROPIC OF CAPRICORN

Some 61 km north of Pietersburg. A column on a rocky outcrop alongside the road marks the point where the road crosses the southernmost tropic of the sun.

LOUIS TRICHARDT

Situated at the foot of the heavily afforested Soutpansberg Range, this well treed town seems in perfect harmony with its wooded surroundings. Besides enjoying the scenic beauty of the area and the recreational opportunities which the mountains offer, visitors may undertake interesting excursions in the vicinity of the town. Furthermore, the Kruger National Park is only 140 km to the east and Venda through which the road to the park leads, provides enough diversity to fascinate visitors. A choice of hotels in scenic surroundings provide accommodation for those who wish to linger in the area.

The historic town was named after the Voortrekker leader, Louis Trichardt, who camped in the vicinity in 1836 before continuing on his fateful journey to Delagoa Bay. In 1847 the first settlement was established in the area and named Zoutpansbergdorp, later to be renamed *Schoemansdal*. This settlement became the centre of a flourishing albeit unruly bunch of ivory traders, cattle rustlers, hunters and adventurers who, when they were not revelling, were constantly at loggerheads with each other and with the Bavenda people who were themselves in a state of unrest. This uneasy situation and the remoteness of the area caused the Voortrekkers to evacuate the village in 1867. The village was then plundered and totally destroyed by the tribesmen making it the only Voortrekker village to have fallen into the hands of black people. Not many Europeans ventured into the area after that episode. Those who did such as the well-known trader Joao Albasini lived in private forts. Only in 1898 did the *Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek* regain control of the area and establish the present day Louis Trichardt.

Louis Trichardt serves a thriving farming community. Vast cattle and game ranches occur in the area and citrus, avocado pears, sub-tropical fruit, groundnuts and vegetables are produced on a large scale. An agricultural show is held in July/August annually.

THINGS TO DO AND SEE

Church of the Vow

One of two in the country, the other being in Pietermaritzburg. Cnr Erasmus and Krogh Streets. Erected in honour of a vow made here by General Piet Joubert and his commando in 1898 on the eve of an attack against one of the local tribes.

Fort Hendrina

Situated behind the municipal offices in Erasmus Street. Erected during the pioneering days at the end of the previous century to provide protection for the local inhabitants. May be viewed from the outside only.

Indigenous Tree Park

Recently established adjacent to the caravan park. Contains a representative collection of indigenous trees which in years to come will grow into handsome specimens. Open daily.

ACCOMMODATION

Seven hotels are situated in and around the town, some offering breathtaking views of the Soutpansberg and the Northern Transvaal plains. The municipal caravan park is situated on the southern outskirts of the town.

AIRFIELD AND STATION

Airfield: tar landing strip with radio active beacon and radio activated landing lights approximately seven kilometres out of town on the R522 to Vivo. *Information and Reservations:* call (01551) 2212.

Station: Kruger Street. *Information and Reservations:* call (01551) 4 9202.

HOW TO GET TO LOUIS TRICHARDT

Louis Trichardt is situated on the N1 some 107 km from Pietersburg and 440 km from Johannesburg. The town is served by a regular passenger train service as well as by chartered passenger flights to Johannesburg.

RECREATION AND EXCURSIONS

The town provides for a wide variety of sporting activities such as golf, swimming, bowls, squash and tennis while the Soutpansberg offers opportunities for walking and hiking in scenic surroundings. *Hunting and Photographic Safaris* may be enjoyed on private game ranches in the area. *Information:* call (01551) 9743 or 4069.

Albasini Dam

Approximately 18 km from Louis Trichardt on the road to Levubu. A popular angling and watersport resort incorporating the *Soutpansberg Angling Grounds* where camping facilities are available. *Information:* The Caretaker, PO Box 420, Louis Trichardt 0920 or call (01552) 789.

Ben Lavin Nature Reserve

Situated 12 km south-east of the town in gently rolling bushveld countryside at the foot of the

Soutpansberg mountains. Take the turn off to Elim three kilometres south of Louis Trichardt and some one and a half kilometres further on, the signposted turn off to Fort Edward. The entrance to the reserve is reached five kilometres along this gravel road. Game species encountered include giraffe, wildebeest, zebra, sable antelope, leopard and rare species such as pangolin, antbear, aardwolf and brown hyena. An abundant birdlife ranging from Wahlberg's eagle to the small lesser double-collared sunbird attracts bird-watchers. Game may be viewed either by car or on foot. Two hides overlooking waterholes provide fascinating game viewing. Night drives may be arranged with the warden. Accommodation, camping and caravan facilities are available. Open daily 06h00-18h00. *Information:* The Warden, Ben Lavin Nature Reserve, PO Box 782, Louis Trichardt 0920. Call (01551) 3834.

Langjan Nature Reserve

Situated 94 km from town, 22 km north of Vivo on the road to Alldays at the western end of the Soutpansberg. Established in the 1950's to provide sanctuary for the only remaining herd of gemsbok in the Transvaal at the time. Giraffe, zebra, waterbuck, eland, ostrich and large numbers of kudu and impala are some of the other species which may be seen. The rare civet cat may also be encountered. Guided tours and walking trails are available. Accommodation is available as well as camping and braai facilities. *Information and Reservations:* The Officer-in-Charge, PO Box 15, Vivo 0924. Call (015562) 1211.

Mara Research Station

Situated 54 km west of Louis Trichardt. Research on live-stock conducted here furthers the development of the Bonsmara cattle breed. Visitors are welcome but prior arrangements must be made. Call (0020) and ask for Combretum 4.

Piesanghoek/Witvlag Scenic Route

Some 76 km offer splendid views of the mountain scenery and sub-tropical orchards to the north-east of the town. Take the signposted Levubu Road from Louis Trichardt and turn left at the Piesanghoek signpost. The route continues back to Louis Trichardt after a left turn at the Witvlag Road T-junction.

Schoemansdal

Some 15 km west of Louis Trichardt on the road to Vivo. Although at present a ghost town with nothing but rubble and a few fruit trees, a living museum is being planned to recreate this frontier town which in

its heyday boasted a population of some 1 800.

Skills such as candle-making, soap-making, curing and currying of hides, smithy work and cabinet-making will once again be practised. The official opening is anticipated in 1988, the year which marks the 150th anniversary of the Great Trek.

TOURIST INFORMATION

The Town Clerk
Cnr Krogh and Erasmus Streets
PO Box 96
LOUIS TRICHARDT 0920
Call (01551) 2212

SOUTPANSBERG

This majestic mountain range which forms the divide between the grasslands of the Pietersburg Plateau and the hot savannah plains of the northern bushveld, takes its name from a large pan at the western end — since ancient times a source of salt to the inhabitants of the area. Although not a large range — only 130 km from west to east — it is richly afforested and extremely impressive. In good years and in contrast to the surrounding area, the mountains, especially in the east, have a high annual rainfall of approximately 2 000 mm which accounts for the heavily wooded nature of the area. The forests include both exotic plantations and beautifully cool indigenous tracts featuring cycads, tree ferns, yellowwood, stinkwood, wild fig, Cape chestnut, waterberry, tree wistaria and many others. Klipspringer, bushbuck, grey and red duiker live in the mountains. Birdlife is prolific and species such as crowned eagle, black eagle, crowned hornbill, forest canary, narina trogon, blackfronted bush shrike, glossy starling, blackheaded oriole and the collared sunbird frequent the area.

RECREATION AND EXCURSIONS

State Forests

Much of the afforested areas in the district are State owned. These include *Entabeni* which lies on the summit of the mountains and forms the boundary between Venda and the Transvaal and *Hanglip* to the north of Louis Trichardt. Opportunities for delightful walks and, for the more energetic, hiking trails in splendid mountain scenery are plentiful. A relatively easy climb to the summit of *Hanglip* (1 718 m), one of the highest peaks in the range towering directly over Louis Trichardt, yields wonderful views. Tree plants may be purchased at the *Hanglip State Forest Nursery* where picnic sites are also available.



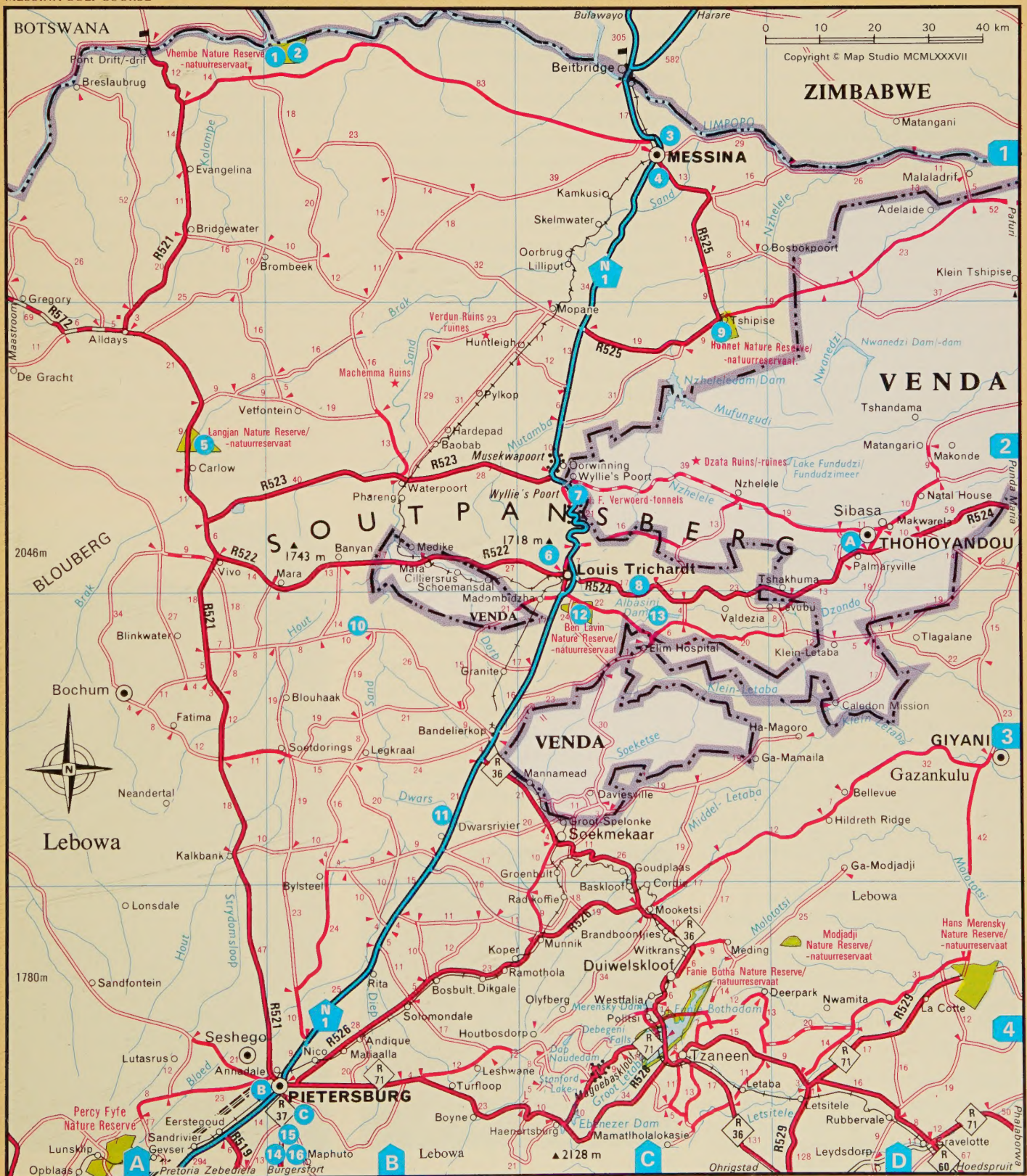
MESSINA GOLF COURSE

MAP 2: PIETERSBURG AND THE AREA NORTH OF THE CITY

- 1 B1 Mapungubwe Hill
- 2 B1 Vhembe Nature Reserve
- 3 C1 Baobab Tree in Erich Mayer Park
- 4 C1 Messina Nature Reserve
- 5 A2 Langjan Nature Reserve
- 6 C2 Soutpansberg Hiking Trail
- 7 C2 Wyllie's Poort and Hendrik Verwoerd Tunnels
- 8 C2 Piesanghoek/Witvlag Scenic Route
- 9 C2 Honnet Nature Reserve
- 10 B3 Mara Research Station
- 11 B3 Tropic of Capricorn
- 12 C3 Ben Lavin Nature Reserve
- 13 C3 Albasini Dam
- 14 B4 Bakone Malapa Open-Air Museum
- 15 B4 Pietersburg Municipal Game Reserve
- 16 B4 Union Park

TOURIST INFORMATION

- A D2 Venda Tourism Department
 B B4 The SA Tourism Board's Pietersburg Office
 C B4 Automobile Association of SA



Permits are required and are issued at the various forestry offices in the State forests.

The Soutpansberg Hiking Trail stretches over a distance of 90 km from the Hanglip State Forestry Office to the Entabeni Office. It usually takes five days to complete but shorter trails over a period of one to three days may also be undertaken. Because of the ruggedness of the terrain, hikes in the Soutpansberg Mountains are only recommended for the very fit and groups are limited to 30 people. *Information and Reservations:* The Regional Director, Forest Region Northern Transvaal, Private Bag X2413, Louis Trichardt 0920. Call (01551) 2201.

Wyllie's Poort

Beyond Louis Trichardt the road to the north winds up the densely wooded southern slopes of the Soutpansberg along an extremely beautiful mountain pass. At the summit a gravel turn off, signposted *Bluegumspoort*, offers a 16 km scenic drive along the western summit of the mountains yielding spectacular views of the Lowveld and the serene beauty of indigenous forests. The drive which takes its name from a stretch of tall bluegums encountered along the way, ends at a farm gate.

From the summit of the Soutpansberg the road to the north descends into the fertile central valley of the range before reaching Wyllie's Poort, a spectacular narrow pass through the mountains, 22 km from Louis Trichardt. The towering cliffs on either side of the pass, lichen decorated in shades of yellow and green, seem to dwarf all else into insignificance, even the giant trees which appear to grow out of the solid rock. The road cuts through the mountains by means of the two *Hendrik Verwoerd Tunnels* of which the southernmost tunnel is 457 m long and the other 274 m. Both the impressive scenery and the beautiful indigenous vegetation may be enjoyed by tarrying a while at the vantage point at the entrance to the tunnels.

Thirty one km beyond Louis Trichardt the road passes through a charming sylvan passage which forms a stark contrast with the plains beyond — a parkland of mopane and baobab trees through which the road to the north cuts straight as a die.

Mineral Spa

Some 56 km from Louis Trichardt a road turns right to a mineral spa situated 34 km further on at the foot of a rocky hill. The pleasantly warm

winter climate makes it especially popular as a winter holiday resort. Amenities include a hotel, caravan park, self-contained, air-conditioned rondavels, restaurants and shopping facilities. Hot and cold water mineral pools and rheumatic pools are available as well as facilities for bowls, tennis, badminton, riding and billiards. Bus tours and a hiking trail of 31 km may be undertaken through the adjacent *Honnet Nature Reserve* where large numbers of giraffe, zebra, kudu, eland, gemsbok, leopard, hyena and many other species of game may be viewed. The 10 km long *Baobab Trail* through the reserve passes handsome specimens of these ancient giants. A chartered air service operates between Johannesburg and the resort. *Information:* call (015539) 4.

In the vicinity of the spa on the farm *Nonsiang* a giant specimen of an ancient baobab tree may be seen. This weird and wonderful relic of an age gone by stands about 27 m high, has a girth of 20 m and is thought to be over 4 000 years old. Permission to view must be obtained from the owner. Call (015539) 719.

From the resort a good tarred road leads eastwards through typical mopane veld to the *Pafuri Gate*, the northernmost gate of the *Kruger National Park*.

Citrus farming and game ranching is practised on a large scale in the area and offer opportunities for interesting outings. *Further information:* call (01553) 2210 or 2209. For information on *Hunting Safaris* call (015539) 719.

MESSINA

This northernmost town in the Republic is situated 95 km from Louis Trichardt and 15 km from the Zimbabwean border. The town owes its origin and development to the presence of rich copper deposits in the area. The metal was first discovered here in prehistoric times by the early black miners of the

Musina tribe and rediscovered by prospectors shortly after the turn of the century. The town that developed around the mining activity was named Messina, a derivation of the word 'musina' meaning 'spoiler', because the copper, according to those early miners, adulterated that which they were really looking for — iron. Today, in addition to copper, minerals such as iron ore, coal, magnetite, graphite, asbestos and also semi-precious stones are mined in the area. Tours are conducted through the *Copper Mine*.

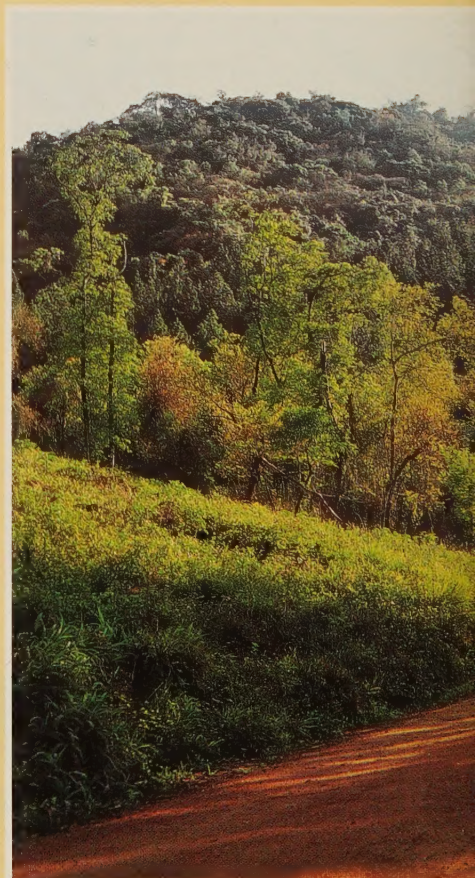
Information: call (01553) 2101.

Messina is the centre of an extensive game ranching area which caters for both the domestic and the overseas hunting market. Besides attracting many visitors, game ranching has led to the development of a thriving auxiliary industry in the form of a shoe and leather factory using local hides, a biltong factory and a taxidermal and tanning factory. Visitors are welcome at all three. *Game auctions* drawing people from all over the country are held annually on local game ranches. *Information:* call (01553) 2141. An agricultural show is held annually in August.

The area around Messina is richly endowed with relics of prehistoric peoples and is a veritable treasure house for archaeologists. In the Limpopo River Valley there are several flat-topped remains of an



OVERNIGHT HUT, HONNET NATURE RESERVE



THE SCENIC SPLENDOUR OF THE SOUTPANSBERG

ancient eroded plain which provided natural strongholds for early man. Probably the most significant of these is *Mapungubwe Hill* some 75 km west of Messina where numerous gold artefacts have been unearthed.

AIRPORT AND STATION

Airport: six kilometres west of the town on the Harper/Campbell Road. **Information:** call (01553) 2122 X 2001.

Station: situated in the main street. A daily passenger train service operates between Messina and the Witwatersrand. **Information:** call (01553) 3 8225.

An interesting exhibit on the station platform is *Doel Zeederberg's Mail Coach*, the original coach which used to run between Pretoria and Zimbabwe.

CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

Messina is a colourful town with gaily flowering flamboyant and coral trees, poinsettias and bougainvilleas and parks with indigenous plants. The *Impala Lily Park* in the main street is particularly beautiful in spring. Summers are hot, winters mild and the annual rainfall approximately 300 mm.

RECREATION AND EXCURSIONS

Recreational facilities provide for swimming, tennis, bowls, rugby, badminton, squash and pistol

shooting. A golf course with well kept greens is laid out among rocky hills, mopane and baobab trees.

Baobab trees (NM)

Messina is noted for its many baobab trees all of which are declared national monuments — the reason for one sometimes having to drive around a bulky form in the middle of a road! A particularly impressive specimen, known as the *Elephant's Trunk* because of the shape of one of its branches, is found just outside the town on the road to *Malala Drift*. It stands massive and alone in the little *Erich Mayer Park*, named after a well-known painter of baobabs. Another superb example of one of these prehistoric giants may be seen about five kilometres out of town on the road to Louis Trichardt. As if too old and too weary to maintain an upright position, this tree grows in a 'reclining' position!

Messina Nature Reserve

Situated one kilometre out of town on the road to Louis Trichardt, this reserve was established to protect the area's baobabs of which more than 100 mature specimens occur within its boundaries. In total the reserve contains approximately 350 species of trees and shrubs. The game population includes giraffe, kudu, nyala, sable antelope, wildebeest, impala, duiker and steenbok. Sharpe's grysbok and the rare crested guinea fowl have also been sighted here. The reserve may only be visited by special arrangement. **Information:** The Officer-in-Charge, Messina Nature Reserve, PO Box 78, Messina 0900, call (01553) 2307; or The Regional Representative, Division of Nature Conservation, PO Box 217, Pietersburg 0700, call (01521) 7 4948.

Mapungubwe Hill (NM)

Approximately 75 km from Messina. Take the *Pontdrif* turn off two

kilometres north of the town. Some 20 km along this road a large solid granite hill is encountered. A wild fig tree growing out of the side of the hill reminds one of the tenacity of our indigenous flora. The name of the hill — *Small Bulai*, derived from the Sotho word for 'killing' — remains a mystery. Various other smaller rocky outcrops occur in the area. Gravel roads branching off the tarred road lead through the Limpopo Valley where cotton, corn and vegetables are cultivated under irrigation.

Mapungubwe Hill — 'Place of the Jackal' — is situated in the *Vhembe Nature Reserve* at the confluence of the Shasi and Limpopo Rivers in an area administered by the South African Defence Force. The hill itself, a massive solid rock, dwarfs the many other rocky hills surrounding it and even the huge baobabs which stand sentinel-like at the foot. Because access to the hill is only possible along a concealed rock crevice which today sports a rope ladder, it was a natural mountain fortress for the people of the so-called Mapungubwe culture who inhabited the hill from about 950-1200 A.D. Valuable archaeological finds dating back to this period have been made here by the University of Pretoria.

Of tremendous archaeological value, the nature reserve also delights naturalists. The area is the natural habitat of leopards and many species of buck. Lions have been known to frequent the reserve and even herds of elephant have come through the Limpopo River from Zimbabwe. A bungalow and tents are available for visitors wishing to stay overnight. Tour groups and individuals are welcome. Prior arrangements must however be made through the Commander-in-chief, South African Defence Force, Messina 0900. Call (01553) 2122 X 2505.

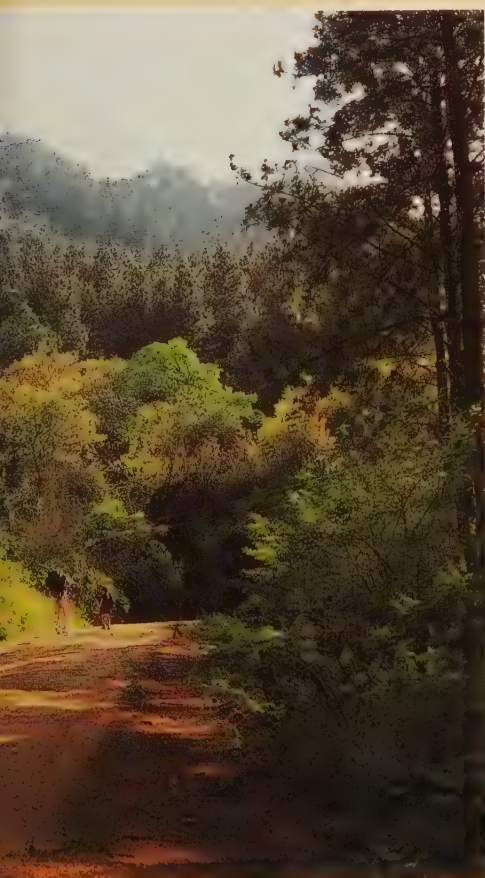
TOURIST INFORMATION

The Town Clerk
1 Flax Avenue
PO Box 611

MESSINA 0900
Call (01553) 2210

Tourist Information Bureau
Municipal Library
Main Street
MESSINA 0900
Call (01553) 2209

From Messina the road to the north continues through densely wooded mopane veld to *Beitbridge*, the border post between South Africa and Zimbabwe, 16 km further on. The post is open daily from 06h00-20h00.



IMPALA LILY

Venda

The independent Republic of Venda which adjoins the far northern section of South Africa's Kruger National Park makes a fascinating holiday destination. Although small by international standards, the country offers tremendous contrasts of scenery with invariably one thing in common: their exceptional beauty.

Magnificent indigenous forests, mysterious lakes, tumbling waterfalls, thermal springs, ancient ruins and rock paintings are but some of the attractions encountered.

Venda is a country rich in legend and superstition where both natural and ancestral spirits are held in awe. For this reason many of the places of interest and customs such as the initiation ceremonies are regarded as sacred. Tourists are advised to make use of the services of experienced guides to ensure that they derive maximum pleasure from their visit and avoid giving offence to the people who still honour ancient beliefs and customs.

The VhaVenda are noted for their arts and crafts and artistic clay pots, basketware, woven articles and wood carvings may be purchased at

reasonable prices. The craft centre 'Ditike' at Thohoyandou is the central depot for ethnic craft and also displays some of the finest Venda paintings and wood sculptures.

Accommodation facilities in Venda vary from the luxurious Venda Sun in Thohoyandou with its well attended casino to luxury family rooms, self-contained chalets and caravan parks such as those in the beautiful *Nwanedi National Park*. The park also offers a modern conference centre and restaurant.

South African and foreign visitors intending to stay less than 14 days in Venda do not require visas. For visits of longer than 14 days prior permission is required. Further information may be obtained from the Venda Embassy or Consulate offices in South Africa. All visitors are required to carry some form of acceptable identification on them. Brochures and further information on Venda may be obtained from:

THE VENDA TOURISM
DEPARTMENT
VDC Building
Thohoyandou
P O Box 9
Sibasa
Republic of Venda
Call (015581) 2 1131



THE LARGEST BAOBAB IN AFRICA, VALLEY OF THE BAOBABS, VENDA



CRAFT CENTRE 'DITIKE', THOHOYANDOU



THE IMPRESSIVE 'DOMBA' OR PYTHON DANCE

The Escarpment East of Pietersburg

The escarpment east of Pietersburg offers magnificent scenery: a world of rugged mountain beauty, age old forests and ancient cycads, sparkling trout waters, cascading waterfalls and moreover a land of legend, history and romance. A land that is home to the enigmatic rain queen who, as the legends of her people tell, has mystical rainmaking powers and is the direct descendant of the princess of the Karanga tribe, who in the 16th century fled southwards from Zimbabwe and settled in the Molotutse valley north-east of the present day Duiwelskloof.

The tranquillity of this enchanting region belies a turbulent past, the very name of one of the most scenic features, the Magoebaskloof, bearing witness to this fact. The kloof was named after Makgobo, chief of the Tlou tribe who in 1894 sought sanctuary on the misty slopes of the mountains and in the many hidden ravines, after leading his people in revolt against the government of the *Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek* on an issue of tax collection. History recalls this chieftain, who was tracked down, and beheaded, by the

Swazi warriors sent out to capture him, and legend tells of an imprisoned spirit in the trunk of a palm tree at Thabina in the Lowveld. To botanists this palm was simply a freak tree with a bulging trunk; to tribal elders it was a means by which the spirit of Makgobo would be released once the bulge reached the top of the trunk. The tree was however blown down in a storm before this could come to pass.

The area is heavily wooded with vast plantations of trees alternating with unspoilt indigenous tracts. The great diversity of flora will delight both the botanist and the layman. The many sawmills attest to the extent of afforestation of the region.

Normally the rainfall along the escarpment is about 1 780 mm per annum falling mainly during summer. Mists are frequent during this period and add a magical quality to the beauty of the area. Winters are dry and cold and snow falls only occasionally.

Today good roads traverse this scenic region where once wagons and stage coaches negotiated precipitous declines and these,

together with the many excellent accommodation establishments available, encourage visitors to explore the area.

From Pietersburg the R71 leads eastwards to Tzaneen across the grasslands of the Pietersburg plateau passing numerous large granite outcrops. Some 30 km from the town a road branches off to the *University of the North (Turfloop)*, the largest black university in the country. Visits to the university itself and the university fish breeding centre may be arranged. Call (01522) 4310.

Approximately six kilometres further at Boyne, in a valley abounding with aloes, the road passes Zion City Moria, the seat of the Zion Christian Church, the black church with the largest following in South Africa. During Easter millions of followers from all over the country congregate here.

HAENERTSBURG

A small forestry village situated some 58 km from Pietersburg in an area famed for its trout streams and *Cherry Blossom and Azalea Festival*.



SPRING MAGIC, HAENERTSBURG



MAGOEBAKLOOF, A LAND OF SCENIC BEAUTY AND AGE OLD FORESTS

The village was at one time the centre of the Woodbush Goldfields and is named after C F Haenert who started the rush to the area in the 1890's. Four kilometres beyond the village at the old coach halt *Cheerio*, a road turns off to a singularly beautiful farm consisting of three nurseries specialising in flowering cherries and azaleas — a sight well worth seeing in spring when for a short period of three to four weeks the cherry trees and certain species of azalea shrubs bloom. The exact period is determined by rainfall and visitors are advised to check with the owners before visiting. Many of the azaleas bloom throughout the year. *Further information:* call (0152222) and ask for 1823. At the *Haenertsburg Spring Fair* which is held annually at a local hotel to coincide with the Cherry Blossom Festival, locally made arts and crafts are displayed. *Information:* call (0152222) and ask for 83. Coach tours operate from Pretoria to Haenertsburg during October. *Information:* call (012) 62 2842 or (0152222) and ask for 83.

Just beyond Haenertsburg the road to Tzaneen forks; the southern route leading along the R528 through George's Valley and the northern route leading along the R71 through Magoebaskloof.

GEORGE'S VALLEY

This route which follows the Letaba River along the slopes of the Wolkberg is three kilometres longer than the road through Magoebaskloof. Being less winding it is the suggested route for heavy vehicles and caravans and offers good views of the afforested mountain slopes, the Wolkberg which overlooks the valley and the irrigated farmlands of the Letaba Valley where subtropical fruit and nuts are cultivated. The turn off to the *Ebenezer Dam* is reached some six kilometres along the R528. The dam is situated amidst pine forests and offers scope for boating, canoeing, angling and picknicking. Regattas are frequently held here.

WOLKBERG WILDERNESS AREA

Accessible along a signposted road off the R71 some 40 km from Pietersburg. The wilderness area south of George's Valley is 17 000 ha in extent and comprises the high mountains and deep valleys of the Transvaal Drakensberg and a section of the Strydpoort Range. Dense indigenous forests in the valleys and on the southern and south-eastern slopes of the mountains, wide open grasslands, the *Thabina Falls*,

several other lesser falls and the *Mohlapitse River Potholes* offer wonderful opportunities for nature lovers.

Birdlife is prolific and includes lilac-breasted roller, goliath heron, Egyptian goose, black eagle, white stork, rock kestrel and the lesser honey guide. Game is relatively scarce in the area but visitors may spot leopard, brown hyena, grey rhebok, mountain reedbuck, vervet monkey, samango monkey and caracal.

Visitors require a permit to enter the wilderness area and may only do so on foot. Fishing and hunting are not allowed but camping is permitted. Campers must provide their own tents, food and gas stoves as fires are not permitted.

Information: The State Forester, Serala State Forest, Private Bag Haenertsburg 0730. Call (0152222) and ask for 1303.

MAGOEBAKLOOF

Beyond Haenertsburg the R71 crosses the Letaba River to lead through the Magoebaskloof. This beautiful mountain pass leads from the highveld down the Drakensberg escarpment to the subtropical Lowveld, dropping some 600 m over a mere six kilometres. The area encompasses the *Woodbush* and the *De Hoek State Forests* containing some of the finest indigenous forests in South Africa in which evergreens such as yellowwood, broom cluster fig, wild peach, kiepersol (cabbage tree) and forest elder occur. The forests are wild and often the undergrowth is so thick as to be impenetrable.

The main road through the kloof winds through cool shady forests, groves of subtropical fruit trees and deep green tea plantations. Various roads branching off the main road will take the visitor even deeper into this land of magic where only the sounds of the forest are heard.

For those who wish to stay over and explore at leisure this splendid environment, two hotels and a holiday resort in the kloof offer wonderful opportunities.

Information: call (0152222) ask for 83, (0152222) ask for 53 and (015236) 5633 or 5755. Good camping and caravan facilities are available as well as a variety of sports facilities. The many scenic roads which traverse the area are well signposted and eventually take the traveller to some identifiable junction with a main road. Local hoteliers are a good source of information in this regard. Some eight kilometres beyond

Haenertsburg a road turns right to the *Ebenezer Dam*.

RECREATION AND EXCURSIONS

Magoebaskloof Hiking Trail

The trail offers two options: the *Dokolewa section*, a circular route of 36 km from the De Hoek Forest Station, and the *Grootbosch section*, a hike of 28 km from the same starting point to Christinasrus, seven kilometres from Duiwelskloof. Both trails pass through indigenous forests and plantations of exotic pine trees along the northern slopes of the Magoebaskloof affording glorious views of the Lowveld and Tzaneen. Overnight facilities are available along both sections of the trail.

Further information: The Regional Director, Northern Transvaal Forest Region, Private Bag X2413, Louis Trichardt 0920. Call (01551) 2201.

Woodbush State Forest and Dap Naude Dam

Reached by taking the gravel turn off five kilometres beyond turn off to *Ebenezer Dam*. The 12 km drive to the forest through the largest indigenous forest in the Transvaal, runs along the edge of the escarpment offering magnificent views of the surrounding area. In this high rainfall region of fertile granitic soils, species such as the red stinkwood, cabbage tree, yellowwood, ironwood and Transvaal red ivory abound, some attaining a formidable height. The largest ironwood in the forest is 42 m high with a circumference of 5,5 m.

The forest is inhabited by bush pig, bushbuck, duiker, leopard, porcupine, lynx, vervet and samango monkey and a great variety of birds.

Some five kilometres beyond the forest station the *Dap Naude Dam* on the Broederstroom is reached. Built to supply Pietersburg with water, the dam is a popular venue for members of the Haenertsburg Trout Angling Association and has a fine camping site. Angling and camping permits may be obtained from the forestry office. From the dam the road meanders through delightful countryside back to the Pietersburg-Tzaneen road.

Information: The State Forester, Woodbush State Forest, Private Bag X4013, Tzaneen 0850. Call (015236) 5767.

Debegeni Falls and De Hoek State Forest

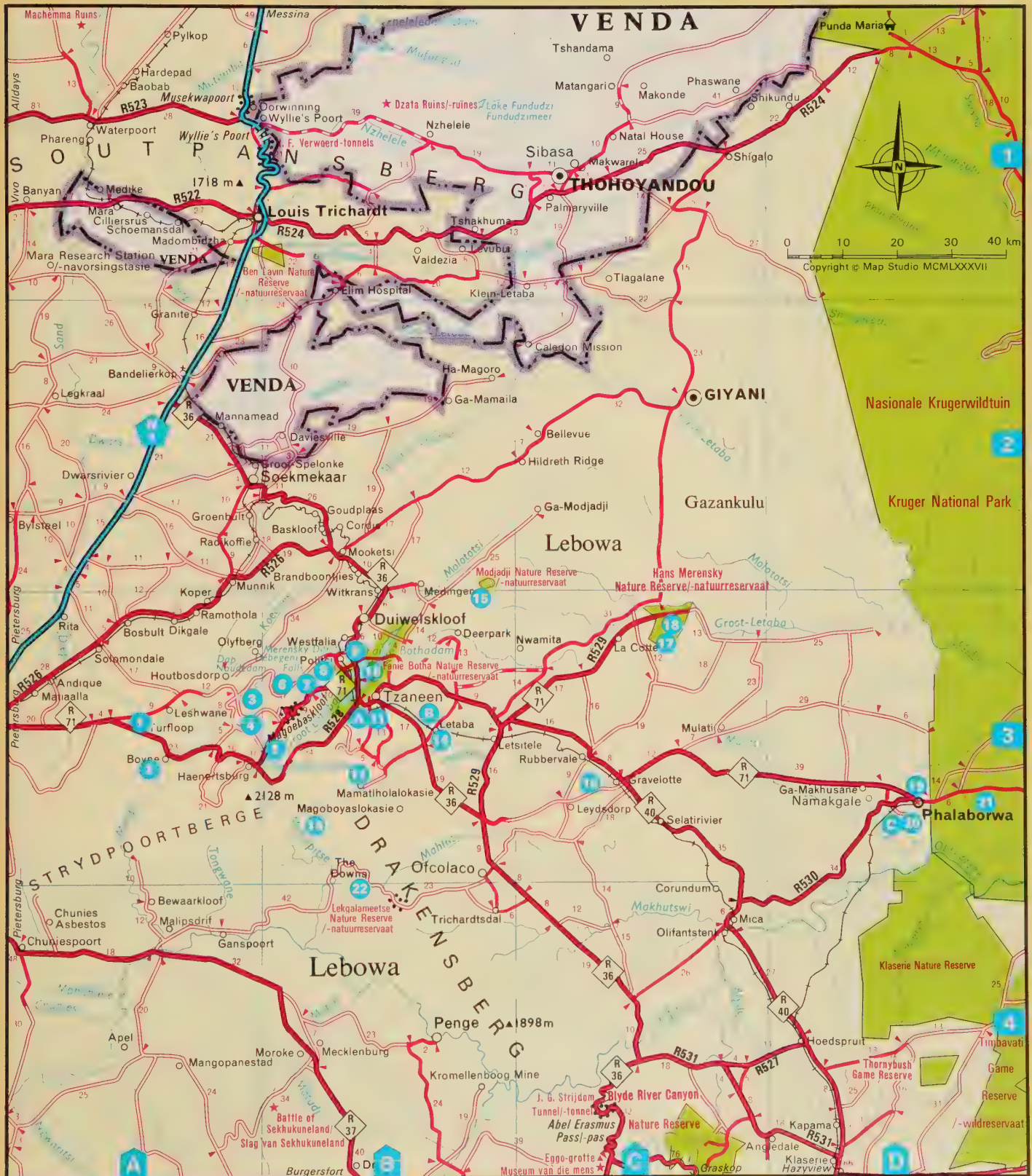
Reached by turning left 10 km beyond the turn off to Woodbush and travelling for a short distance through the *De Hoek State Forest*. The spectacular falls consist of a series of cascades tumbling 80 m



DEBEGENI FALLS

MAP 3: THE ESCARPMENT AND LOWVELD EAST OF PIETERSBURG

- | | | | | | |
|----|----|---|----------------------------|----|------------------------------|
| 1 | A3 | University of the North (Turfloop) | 13 | B3 | Wolkberg Wilderness Area |
| 2 | A3 | Zion City Moria | 14 | B3 | Nkowakowa |
| 3 | A3 | Woodbush State Forest and Dap Naude Dam | 15 | B3 | Modjadji Nature Reserve |
| 4 | A3 | Flowering Cherries and Azaleas | 16 | C3 | Hollow Baobab Tree |
| 5 | B3 | Ebenezer Dam | 17 | C3 | Hans Merensky Nature Reserve |
| 6 | B3 | Magoebaskloof Hiking Trail | 18 | C3 | Tsonga Kraal Open Air Museum |
| 7 | B3 | Debeni Falls and De Hoek State Forest | 19 | D3 | Sealene and Kgopolwe |
| 8 | B3 | Sapekoe Tea Estates | 20 | D3 | Copper Mine |
| 9 | B3 | Hans Merensky Falls | 21 | D3 | Masorini Open-Air Museum |
| 10 | B3 | Fanie Botha Dam and Nature Reserve | 22 | B2 | Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve |
| 11 | B3 | Dr Siegfried Annecke Research Institute and Memorial Garden | TOURIST INFORMATION | | |
| 12 | B3 | New Agatha State Forest and Rooikat Walk | A | B3 | Tzaneen Municipality |
| | | | B | B3 | Letaba Tourism |
| | | | C | D3 | Phalaborwa Municipality |



into a deep pot-like pool which accounts for the name Debegeni, 'the place of the big pot'. In earlier times tribal custom held that the pool was the home of several spirits and gifts of food and drink were regularly left for these supernatural beings to consume. Today it is modern man who eats and drinks in the shade of tall forest giants in the picnic area at the foot of the falls. Swimming is allowed in the pool. Visitors are however warned that the rocks are slippery and extremely dangerous. The falls area is open 1 Sept.-31 March 07h00-18h00; 1 April-31 Aug. 07h00-17h00. Admission is charged. By continuing past the falls the gravel road leads along the Forest Drive to the Woodbush State Forest and the Dap Naude Dam.

A few kilometres beyond the turn off to the Debegeni Falls the R71 passes the Magoebaskloof Dam on the left which is used solely for irrigation purposes. Angling and watersports are not permitted.

Sapekoe Tea Estates

Comprises the *Middelkop Estate* in the lower reaches of Magoebaskloof and the *Grenshoek Estate* on the Politsi road, an area of more than 900 ha where tea has been cultivated since 1963. The name 'Sapekoe' is derived from the Chinese word 'pekoe' meaning tea. The uniform rows of neat tea bushes create a striking picture, especially during the

picking season when the brightly coloured baskets and head scarves of pickers add splashes of colour to the green surroundings. Conducted tours of the estate are available Tues.-Fri. at 10h00. Prior arrangements must be made. *Information: Sapekoe (Pty) Ltd, PO Box 576, Tzaneen 0850. Call (015236) 2 0014.*

From the junction of the R71 and the R36 the road to the north leads past the tree-breeding station of the *Zomerkunst Forestry Station* and continues past the turn-off to *Politsi* which leads to the Sapekoe Tea Estate at Grenshoek. A short distance further the *Hans Merensky Falls* on the Ramadiepa River are reached by turning off the R36. The falls may also be seen from the R36.

DUIWELSKLOOF

This picturesque village lies on the slopes of the heavily wooded escarpment 18 km north of Tzaneen. The area is the traditional realm of the Lovedu tribe and their queen Modjadji around whom, over the centuries, a web of legend and mystique has been woven.

A high rainfall, in the region of 1 500 mm per annum, and the subtropical climate account for the abundance of plantlife found here. Besides the dense plantations of eucalyptus and pine trees surrounding the village and the great variety of subtropical fruits — pawpaws, bananas, avocados and mangoes — many flowering trees and shrubs adorn the region. When the bougainvillaeas, poinsettias, frangipani, cassias, acacias, potato trees and jacarandas burst into bloom in spring and summer, one can only marvel at the wealth of colour.

Accommodation is available either at a hotel in the village or at the municipal recreational resort which has rondavels, caravan sites and a swimming pool.

RECREATION AND EXCURSIONS

There are many delightful forest drives and walks in the vicinity of

Duiwelskloof. *Further information: call (015236) 3246.* The village has facilities for swimming, tennis, jukskei, soccer, rugby, bowls and golf, the latter on the scenic course of the *Letaba District Country Club*.

Modjadji Nature Reserve (Cycad Forest)

Situated on the edge of the escarpment within the self-governing state of *Lebowa* some 29 km north-east of Duiwelskloof and reached by following one of several well signposted gravel roads in the area. The most notable feature of the reserve is the large concentration of cycads, the most primitive seedbearing plants known belonging to an ancient order, the *Cycadales* which flourished in the Carboniferous period some 50 to 60 million years ago. The dense forest of the species *Encephalartos transvenosus*, also known as the Modjadji Palm, on the slopes of the hills above the capital of the Rain Queen, constitutes the largest concentration of a single cycad species in the world. These plants have been protected for many generations by the successive rain queens which has resulted in some of the older specimens growing to a height of up to 12 or 13 m. Usually they grow only to a height of five to eight metres.

Picnic and braai facilities are available in the reserve as well as a refreshment kiosk and information centre. Various well laid out walking paths take about an hour or two to complete. The reserve is open daily 07h00-17h00. No permit is required. Admission is charged.

At a nursery approximately five kilometres from the reserve cycads may be purchased and plant permits are issued.

TOURIST INFORMATION

The Town Clerk
Botha Street

PO Box 36

DUIWELSKLOOF 0835

Call (015236) 3246



MODJADJI PALMS. ANCIENT CYCADS



EBENEZER DAM

The Lowveld

Once down the precipitous heights of the ruggedly beautiful escarpment, the transition from the Transvaal Highveld to the subtropical Lowveld is complete. The open grassy plains of the central plateau make way for the well watered woodland and savannah plains of the low-lying country where plant growth is almost as luxuriant as in a hothouse. The plain which seldom exceeds an altitude of 350 m extends eastwards towards the coastal plains of Mozambique. It is an area where for millenia great numbers of antelope, lion, elephant, giraffe, hippo and rhinoceros have roamed at will.

Today a substantial part of the Lowveld is the home of the Kruger National Park and other smaller private game sanctuaries where the animals, safe from excessive hunting, have flourished and multiplied. Trophy hunting is still a popular pastime on private estates in the area but is subject to stringent controls. For those interested, the guidance of professional hunters is available. Information: call (011) 783 0920.

The Lowveld is also home to a thriving farming community who have put the subtropical climate and fertile soil of the area to good use producing fruit, vegetables and nuts in abundance. Nurseries abound in the area specialising in palms, cycads, subtropical fruit trees and hybrids of the barberton daisy, *Gerbera jamesonii*.

TZANEEN

Situated at the foot of the Drakensberg on the periphery of the Lowveld, this colourful town is the commercial centre of the Letaba district in which tea, timber, citrus, vegetables, subtropical fruit, nuts,

coffee and tobacco are produced on a large scale. A feature of the area around Tzaneen are the many roadside stalls selling plants and subtropical fruits in season. Because of the proximity to delightful areas along the eastern escarpment, the Kruger National Park and the scenic Eastern Transvaal, the town is a popular tourist centre.

The Dr Siegfried Annecke Research Institute and Memorial Garden in the town is well worth visiting. The elimination of malaria in the Eastern Transvaal was largely due to research done here by Dr Annecke, a pioneer in the study of tropical diseases. At present the institute is engaged in the fight against bilharzia. Open to visitors Tues. and Thurs. 14h00-15h00. Prior arrangements must be made. Call (015236) 2 1017. The Memorial Garden contains a fine selection of indigenous trees and is open to the public Mon.-Fri. 08h00-14h00.

ACCOMMODATION

Excellent accommodation and cuisine are available in two hotels, one within the town, another on the outskirts commanding a stunning view of the escarpment. Both offer opportunities to explore the area at leisure. Facilities for camping and caravanning exist at two caravan parks within the immediate vicinity of the town.

AIRPORT AND STATION

Airport: situated some 20 km out of town on the R71. Scheduled return flights operate regularly from Tzaneen to Jan Smuts via Pietersburg and also from Phalaborwa to Jan Smuts via Tzaneen. Information and Reservations: call (015236) 4 1248 or 4 1264.

Station: on the outskirts of the town, Agatha Road. Information and Reservations: call (015236) 20 8111.

HOW TO GET TO TZANEEN

Tzaneen is situated some 100 km from Pietersburg and 114 km from Phalaborwa. May also be reached by travelling through the scenic Eastern Transvaal. A scheduled air service operates twice daily to Jan Smuts Airport and a passenger railway service links the town to the Witwatersrand.

CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

The warm subtropical climate and the high summer rainfall accounts for the lush vegetation of the area. Trees such as the flamboyant, tibouchina and kapok and the ever colourful bougainvillea adorn the town which is further enhanced by park-like suburban gardens.

ANNUAL EVENTS

Bass Masters Angling

Competition

April

Kaffirboom Golf Tournament

May

Agricultural and Industrial Show

August

Harvest Festival

September

Silver Mist Golf

Tournament

September



THE DAY IS DONE



EXPLORING THE COUNTRYSIDE ON HORSEBACK



ROADSIDE STALLS ABOUND

RECREATION AND EXCURSIONS

The Tzaneen area offers a wide range of sporting facilities. The *Letaba District Country Club* (signposted turn off from road to Duiwelskloof) has an 18-hole golf course and also facilities for swimming and tennis. Visitors are welcome. Call (015236) 5602. Amenities in town include an olympic sized pool and children's paddling pool as well as bowling greens and squash courts. The *Orangedene Golf Course* some 18 km south-west of the town is also open to tourists.

Tzaneen is situated in an area of exceptional scenic beauty along the eastern escarpment which visitors are urged to explore. Much of this exploration may be achieved by undertaking day trips such as a 35 km circular route along the signposted *Agatha Road* to the south of the town which affords fine views as it runs through captivating scenery. The charming country hotel found along this route has historic interest in that it was conceived on the site of a hotel built in the early 1890's and used as staging post by the Zeederberg Coach Company. *Information:* call (015236) 2 0100/70/71.

The *Rooikat Walk* along a circular 11 km route, leads through the *New Agatha State Forest* some 18 km south of Tzaneen. The walk follows the course of the Bobs River for much of its length, crossing and

recrossing it several times.

Attractions along the way include a picnic site some six kilometres from the start and an impressive view from the top of the *Letsitele Valley*. The walk begins and ends at the *New Agatha Forest Station*. Permits are required. *Information:* The State Forester, *New Agatha State Forest*, Private Bag 4009, Tzaneen 0850. Call (015236) 2 2347 during office hours.

Various interesting endeavours are situated at or near *Nkowakowa*, the industrial area of the self-governing state of *Gazankulu* to the south of Tzaneen. Reached by following the *Lydenburg road* for 13 km and turning left at the *Letaba Station* signpost. The first turn right, one kilometre further on, (*Bankuna Road*) leads into the industrial area. Factories producing handwoven carpets and baskets as well as pottery are some of the industries worth visiting.

At the *Letaba School for Black Handicapped Children* close by, beautiful handwork such as mosaic pots, sisal and raffia mats, cane work, knitted and hand sewn goods may be purchased. The school is situated in the *Letaba Hospital* grounds. Follow the road described above, but continue along the *Letaba Station Road*. The school is situated on the left, just before the road crosses the *Letaba River*.

Information: call (015236) 4 1655.

Another pottery which may be visited lies five kilometres out of Tzaneen, also on the *Lydenburg road*. *Information:* call (015236) 2 1677.

Giyani, the legislative and administrative centre of *Gazankulu*, is situated approximately 100 km north-east of Tzaneen on the road to the *Punda Maria* gate of the *Kruger National Park*. Of interest in the town is a large nursery where cycads and tree-ferns may be purchased.

Fanie Botha Dam and Nature Reserve

Situated to the north of the town amidst extensive plantations. Reached by taking the signposted turn off from the R36 near the junction with the R71. A popular haunt of motor boat enthusiasts and anglers. The dam is well stocked with fish such as barbel, tilapia, black bass and yellow-fish and is the venue for the annual *Bass Masters Angling Competition* during April.

The nature reserve on the banks of the dam offers good opportunities for birdwatching. More than 150 species of bird have been identified here and include fish eagle and tropical

waterfowl. Open daily 05h00-20h00. A caravan park and picnic sites are available. *Information:* The Officer-in-Charge, *Fanie Botha Dam Nature Reserve*, PO Box 1397, Tzaneen 0850. Call (015236) 5641.

Hans Merensky Nature Reserve and Mineral Spa

About 66 km east of Tzaneen. Reached by following the R71 for some 27 km, turning left on to the R529 and continuing along this road for 35 km. Situated on the southern banks of the *Great Letaba River*, the reserve is some 5 200 ha in extent and comprises a parkland of mopane and red bushwillow. It provides shelter to a large variety of game such as impala, zebra, blue wildebeest, sable antelope, kudu, waterbuck, eland, giraffe, crocodile, leopard and hippo.

A variety of predators such as wild dog, blackbacked-jackal, hyena and lion also occasionally move through the reserve. More than 200 species of birds have been recorded and include fish eagle, martial eagle, snake eagle, secretary bird and various water-birds.

Private cars are not allowed in the reserve but organised bus tours are available. Various trails across different ecosystems enable hikers to see a wide range of lowveld plants, animals and birds. These trails vary in length from one to 37 km. Where necessary overnight facilities have been provided.

An interesting aspect of the reserve is the *Tsonga Kraal Open-Air Museum*. The huts and the arts and crafts depicted in ironwork, woodwork, basketry and pottery, reflect the *Tsonga* way of life of approximately a century ago. Guided tours are available Mon.-Fri. 10h00 and 15h00, weekends 10h00. These times vary during school holidays.

At the information centre in the reserve interesting exhibitions as well as film and slide shows may be viewed. *Information:* The Officer-in-Charge, *Hans Merensky Nature Reserve*, Private Bag X502, *Letsitele* 0885. Call (015238) 635.

A public resort and mineral spa in a park-like setting adjoins the *Hans Merensky Nature Reserve*. Accommodation is available in fully equipped, air-conditioned thatched rondavels. Recreational facilities provide for swimming in the indoor heated spa and the open-air pool, as well as for tennis and riding. The resort also offers a restaurant, filling station, shady caravan park and shopping facilities. Due to the subtropical climate of the area, this is a popular winter holiday resort. *Information:* call (015238) 667.



UP EARLY TO MAKE A CATCH

Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve (The Downs)

Reached by taking the R36 from Tzaneen past *Ofcolaco*. The name of the settlement is an acronym for the 'Officers Colonial Land Company' which was formed here by a number of British army officers after the First World War. The road leads to the small rural centre of *Trichardtsdal* and beyond through mango orchards and fertile fields to the reserve.

The reserve is situated some 55 km south-west of Tzaneen in an area of spectacular mountain scenery and incorporates the plateau summit formerly known as *The Downs* — because of its resemblance to the Surrey Downs in England — and the foothills and wooded valleys of the Drakensberg escarpment. Besides dense indigenous forests, glorious views and various hiking trails, the reserve features a diverse and plentiful butterfly population.

Accommodation is available in fully equipped log cabins set in natural surroundings on the banks of the Makhutswe River backed by the craggy peaks of the Drakensberg. *Information:* The Officer-in-Charge, Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve, Private Bag X408, Trichardtsdal 0890. Call (0152302) and ask for 1640.

Tourists travelling along the R36 may wish to continue southwards and visit the Blyde River Canyon in the Blyderivierspoort Nature Reserve. For detailed information on this area consult the South African Tourism Board's brochure: **EASTERN TRANSVAAL**.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Letaba Tourism
PO Box 1808
TZANEEN 0850
Call (015236) 2 2180

The Town Clerk
Agatha Street
PO Box 24
TZANEEN 0850
Call (015236) 2 0132

GRAVELOTTE

Situated approximately 25 km from turn off to Hans Merensky. A small village serving as railway and trading centre for the mining of gold, antimony and emeralds in the nearby Murchison Range.

For outdoor enthusiasts and those curious about the mode of travel of our forebears, this area offers a novel experience: a three-day *Ox-Wagon Trail* along the Selati River to the south-east of the town. While much has been done to retain authenticity, comforts such as mattresses and hot

showers are included and experienced trail guides lead the expeditions. The trails operate during the winter months and offer wonderful opportunities for game and bird watching. *Information:* call (01311) 5 2061.

LEYDSDORP

Approximately 11 km south-west of Gravelotte. Although at present nothing but a ghost town with a few derelict buildings and the evocative name 'The lost town of the Transvaal', Leydsdorp was once a thriving, raucous mining town, the centre of the Selati Goldfields. Unfortunately the gold deposits discovered here in the Murchison Range in 1888 were not very substantial and petered out within a few years. An interesting sight a few kilometres out of town is the giant *Hollow Baobab Tree* which served as a pub where many a dusty and tired prospector quenched his thirst. A signpost along the road between Gravelotte and Leydsdorp indicates the turn off to the tree.

PHALABORWA

Today's visitor will find that the serene bushveld surrounding Phalaborwa reflects little of a geological upheaval some 2 000 million years ago when series upon series of massive volcanic eruptions forced millions of tons of magma up from the depths of the earth. The result was a treasure-house of minerals known as the *Palabora Igneous Complex* which has brought great economic prosperity to the area.

Situated in the heart of the subtropical Lowveld, approximately 114 km from Tzaneen, this colourful town with its flowering trees is the business, recreational and administrative centre of a thriving mining area where rich deposits of phosphate, copper and iron ore are mined. Other minerals which occur in the area include zirconium, vermiculite, mica and even gold.

The name of the town is thought to have been given by a tribe of metal workers, originally from Zimbabwe, soon after they discovered iron and copper in the area approximately 150 years ago. It is derived from the Tsonga name for the *Ficus capreifolia* which occurs in this area. The leaves of this tree are extremely rough, like sandpaper and were used by the tribesmen for 'smoothing the bow' or in Tsonga, 'pala borwa'. Archaeological findings in the area indicated that the Baphalaborwa were not the first miners in this area but that others had been there before them as early as 800 A.D. in the early iron age. A reconstruction of an iron age

village may be seen at the *Masorini Open-Air Museum* in the Kruger National Park some 12 km from Phalaborwa.

Characteristic of the area are many rocky outcrops which were used as burial grounds by these ancient tribes.

Because of its proximity to the Kruger National Park, many thousands of tourists pass through the town annually.

THINGS TO DO AND SEE

Copper Mine

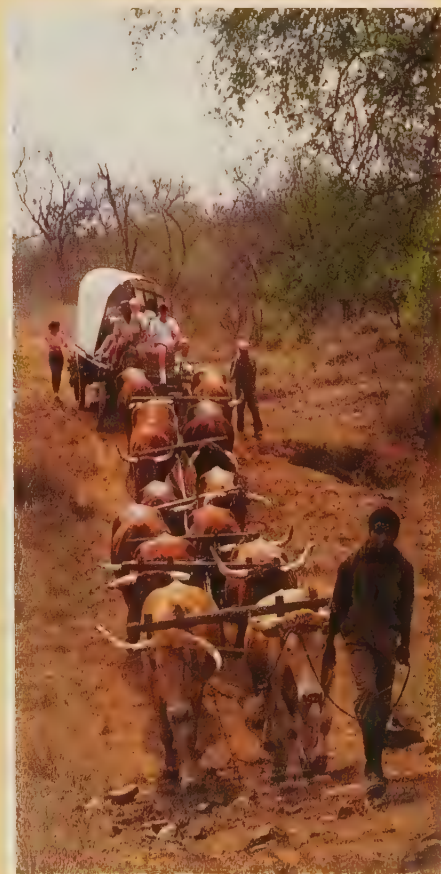
The open cast mine of the Palabora Mining Company is situated on the outskirts of the town. The activities here have reduced what was once known as *Loolekop* to a giant crater lying below sea level and many times larger than the 'Big hole' at Kimberley. Tours of the mine are available on Friday afternoons. Prior arrangements must be made. Call (01524) 2211.

Museum

A museum depicting the archaeological, mining and ethnographical history of the Phalaborwa area is in the process of being established on the outskirts of the town. Planning allows for completion in 1988.

Parks and Trees

The recently established *Frangipani Park* at the western entrance to the town will in years to come provide a colourful welcome. An *Indigenous Tree Park* in Park Street boasts a fine



OX-WAGON TRAIL

collection of trees which are all numbered according to the national tree list. An interesting botanical phenomenon consisting of a marula tree growing out of the side of a mopane tree is encountered in President Steyn Street, alongside the turn off to the airport.

Sealene and Kgopolwe (NM)

Two rocky hills in town that have been declared national monuments on account of valuable archaeological discoveries made there. Named after tribal chiefs who inhabited the surrounding area, the hills were used as burial grounds by ancient tribes and are not accessible to the public.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is available at a hotel, motel and a caravan park. As the latter is situated less than two kilometres from the Phalaborwa gate to the Kruger Park, it is an ideal place to stay for visitors who wish to make day trips to the park.

AIRPORT, STATION, RENT-A-CAR

Airport: on the eastern outskirts of the town. Regular scheduled flights operate from Phalaborwa to Jan Smuts via Tzaneen. *Information and Reservations:* call (01524) 2801.
Station: some 12 km south-west of the town. *Information and Reservations:* call (01524) 5310.
Rent-a-Car: consult the local telephone directory or your hotel porter.

HOW TO GET TO PHALABORWA
Phalaborwa is situated approximately 495 km from Pretoria and 510 km from Johannesburg and may be reached by car along three main routes: via Pietersburg and Tzaneen through the northern Transvaal, via Lydenburg through the eastern Transvaal or via Nelspruit also through the eastern Transvaal. Daily scheduled return flights operate between Jan Smuts Airport and Phalaborwa. Various coach tours operate between the Witwatersrand and Phalaborwa. *Information:* call (01524) 3836. The town is also linked by rail to the Witwatersrand. Passenger trains however only run to Gravelotte. A bus conveys passengers from the Gravelotte station to the Phalaborwa post office.

CLIMATE AND VEGETATION
Phalaborwa is often described as 'the town with two summers', the reason being a mean summer temperature of 31° and a mean winter temperature of 26°. The town lies some 400 m above sea level and has an average annual rainfall of about 450 mm. The vegetation of the area is generally described as bushveld and comprises a parkland of indigenous trees with mopane, marula and leadwood abounding. The town itself is a blaze of colour with exotic species such as jacaranda, flamboyant, frangipani, pride of India, bougainvillea and croton in abundance.

ANNUAL EVENTS
Palabora Classic Golf Tournament January/February
Agricultural and Industrial Show August

RECREATION AND EXCURSIONS
The *Selati Club* and the *Hans Merensky Club* offer facilities for a wide range of sporting activities such as tennis, squash, bowls, swimming, riding and angling. The 18-hole golf course at the Hans Merensky Club is considered to be one of the finest in the country and as it borders on the Kruger National Park sightings of game are common. An interesting feature of the course is the fact that indigenous trees are numbered and named. Temporary membership is available to visitors at both clubs. *Information:* call (01524) 3091 and 5931.

Tours to the Kruger National Park in hired cars or luxury coaches are available. *Information and Reservations:* call (01524) 2801.

TOURIST INFORMATION
The Town Clerk
Selati Road
PO Box 67
PHALABORWA 1390
Call (01524) 2111



MASORINI OPEN AIR MUSEUM



PHALABORWA GATE, KRUGER NATIONAL PARK



PHALABORWA ATTRACTS BOTH TOURISTS AND INDUSTRIALISTS

Kruger National Park

A few years ago it was discovered that a coal-vein extended into the northern parts of the Kruger National Park. The possibility of mining this source of fuel was seriously considered. A short while later stickers appeared on a large number of cars bearing these words: 'We dig the park — don't dig it up'. That is the sort of hold this nature sanctuary has on people who know it and visit it at every possible opportunity.

Dominating the Lowveld and without doubt its most compelling attraction, this internationally renowned game and nature reserve contains within its expanse of nearly 2 000 000 ha an unsurpassed variety of living forms: mammal, bird, reptile, insect and vegetable. And there is about it an enchantment, an almost mystical aura of serenity evoking the Africa of yesteryear.

While the park supports the greatest variety of wildlife species to be found on the African continent, the animals most frequently seen are impala, zebra, giraffe, and wildebeest and it is rare to motor through the sanctuary without seeing elephant. Prides of lion roam the area. As they

tend to lie resting in the shade during the day it is not always easy to spot them. In fact luck and good eyesight are the two main components for successful spotting of these predators and others such as leopard and cheetah.

While these and other big game species such as rhino and buffalo attract a great deal of attention, there are others that may be equally interesting. Naturalists will be alert to the ceaseless trilling of cicadas, the intermittent drumming of the tapping beetle. Others will be more than content with the quaint antics of a warthog, with the rare sighting of black sable antelope. Moreover birdlife is prolific and varied and includes ostriches, lilac-breasted rollers, hornbills, Cape glossy starlings and many different species of raptors such as the fish eagle.

The best season for game viewing is winter when the grass is scant and the animals tend to congregate at the waterholes; on the other hand bird lovers will find summer the more rewarding season.

CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

Although the terrain is often referred

to as the bushveld, this does not imply that the vegetation is unwaveringly short and scrubby. On the contrary many areas, especially near river courses, are characterised by trees — some tall, others wide-branched and densely shady and many that flower spectacularly in their season. Nor is the landscape uniformly flat: hills and rocky outcrops provide shelter from numerous plant and animal species specially adapted to such conditions. The area receives mainly summer rain; winters are generally mild and free of frost. Summer temperatures may exceed 40°C.

ACCOMMODATION AND AMENITIES

Accommodation in the form of family bungalows, self-contained huts and huts with communal ablution facilities, all furnished with bedding but without cooking or eating utensils are available in 17 rest camps. While a limited number of camps serve group needs and must be reserved as a unit, there is variety enough in the type of accommodation available to suit most needs.

The camps have shops stocked



REACHING OUT



BERG-EN-DAL RESTCAMP



SWALLOWTAILED BEE-EATERS

with provisions, curios, books and liquor and the larger camps have restaurants. All the rest camps offer cooking and barbeque facilities and most have camping and caravan sites as well as petrol stations. Pretoriuskop, Shingwedzi and Berg-en-Dal rest camps have swimming pools.

WILDERNESS TRAILS

Within recent years four wilderness trails have been established in the Kruger Park. These are three-day walking safaris under the guidance and protection of experienced game rangers: each provides a matchless opportunity to learn the lore of the bush and the ways of its many inhabitants. Only persons between the ages of 12 and 60 are allowed with a maximum of 8 persons per group. Backpacks are not necessary. Equipment for use in the field, such as tents, are included in the tariff. Meals and refreshments are provided by the trail leaders. *Information and Reservations:* see below.

HOW TO GET TO THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

In all eight entrance gates provide access to the park, two of which have rest camps attached to them. For the motorist from Nelspruit four gates provide easy access to the park: *Malelane, Crocodile Bridge, Numbi and Paul Kruger Gates.* The latter two are reached via White River. The central area of the park is accessible

via the *Orpen and Phalaborwa Gates*, and the northernmost section via those at *Punda Maria and Pafuri.*

FLY-IN SAFARIS: there is an airstrip at Skukuza rest camp. A daily air service links the Kruger National Park with Johannesburg and Phalaborwa. *Information:* call Jan Smuts Airport (011) 975 9963 or consult your local travel agent.

LUXURY COACH SERVICES from Durban, Johannesburg and Nelspruit offer tours to the park. Consult your local travel agent for details.

INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS

- (a) The Chief Director
National Parks Board
PO Box 787
PRETORIA 0001
Call: (012) 343 1991
- (b) Call personally at the
reservations office, Leyds Street,
Muckleneuk, **Pretoria.**
- (c) The Reservations Officer
National Parks Board
PO Box 7400
ROGGEBAAI 8012
Call (021) 24 3125

A comprehensive description of the Kruger National Park, its fauna, flora and amenities, will be found in the South African Tourism Board's publication *Our World of Wildlife — South Africa on Safari.* (To obtain a copy contact your nearest Tourism

Board office: for addresses see back page).

MALARIA PRECAUTIONS: See page 23.



ZEBRAS QUENCHING THEIR THIRST

Private Game Reserves

On the western border of the Kruger National Park several private game reserves have been established through the consolidation of a number of farms with the specific purpose of creating sanctuaries for the fauna and flora of the Lowveld.

While nature trail expeditions are conducted in the *Klaserie Reserve*, two of the best known areas are *Timbavati* and *Sabi-Sand*. In these latter reserves privately owned game lodges have been opened to accommodate visitors. *Tanda Tuli*, *Motswari*, *M'bali* and *Ngala* are situated in the *Timbavati Reserve*. There are no less than eight lodges in the *Sabi-Sand Reserve* — *Mala Mala*, *Kirkman's Kamp*, *Harry's* (within what is collectively known as *Rattray Reserves*), *Bush Lodge* and *River Lodge* within *Sabi Sabi* besides *Inyati*, *Ulusaba* and *Londolozi*. But there are others such as *Tshukudu*, *Thornybush* and *Manyeleti* besides the *Umbabat Nature Reserve*.

All the lodges offer comfortable (in some cases luxurious) accommodation, swimming pools, 'bomas', day and night game viewing in open 4-wheel drive vehicles and

walking safaris under the guidance of rangers. Tariffs vary depending on the type of accommodation and services provided.

For booking details consult your local travel agent or the South African Tourism Board's regional brochure 'Where to stay'.

HOW TO GET TO THE PRIVATE GAME RESERVES

All are within easy motoring distance of Johannesburg, Pretoria, Nelspruit and Phalaborwa. From Nelspruit transfer services by microbus may also be arranged. Also accessible via Belfast, Lydenburg and Sabie through a scenically captivating area over the Long Tom Pass.

BY AIR: regular scheduled services from Durban, Johannesburg, Nelspruit, Skukuza and Phalaborwa besides either charter or private flights. Some lodges offer fully inclusive air packages from Lanseria Airport in charter aircraft. Landing strips at Phalaborwa, Nelspruit and Skukuza: some game reserves have their own strips. Consult your local travel agent for details.

LUXURY COACH TOURS: operate from either Pretoria or Johannesburg. Consult your local travel agent for details.

FLY-DRIVE SAFARIS: from Jan Smuts International Airport near Johannesburg. Consult your local travel agent for details.

MALARIA PRECAUTIONS

The Kruger National Park and the adjacent Lowveld territory are situated in an area where malaria still exists, and although the risk of contracting the disease is minimal it is advisable to take precautionary measures in the form of anti-malaria pills before entering the area. Either a doctor or pharmacist should be consulted on the most suitable prophylactic.



A CLOSE-UP ALL GAME SPOTTERS YEARN FOR

The Area South and South-west of Pietersburg

Characteristic of this region is the Waterberg range with its spectacular mountain scenery, the many mineral spas around which holiday resorts have been developed, numerous game ranches and a wealth of indigenous trees and shrubs.

The mild winter climate experienced here coupled with the variety of holiday resorts and the close proximity to the highly populated Witwatersrand, make this area a much sought after holiday destination throughout the year.

PERCY FYFE NATURE RESERVE

Situated 35 km from Pietersburg and 26 km from Potgietersrus. The reserve has been used to breed rare antelope in particular the roan, tsessebe and sable for resettlement in other reserves. Other game encountered here include reedbuck, steenbok, waterbuck, kudu, impala, zebra and buffalo. Birdlife is prolific and include such species as the African hawk eagle and the black eagle. Other than a youth camp with camping facilities for which prior arrangements must be made, no accommodation is available. The reserve is open daily. *Information*

and Reservations: The Officer-in-Charge, Percy Fyfe Nature Reserve, Private Bag X2585, Potgietersrus 0600. Call (01541) 5678.

EERSTELING GOLD MINE MONUMENTS (NM)

Situated 29 km south-west of Pietersburg at the site of the first goldmine in the Transvaal which was established after the discovery of gold by Edward Button in 1871. Reached by taking the signposted turn off from the N1 some 23 km from Pietersburg. Six kilometres along this road the rock on which gold ore was first crushed in the Transvaal and the chimney of the power plant that operated the stamp battery may be seen. The chimney, built of granite imported from Aberdeen at a cost of £20 000, was the tallest structure in the district and was thought to represent the strength of the British Empire. Locals thought that with its demolition the Empire would collapse and during the Transvaal War of Independence (1880-1881) many tried to destroy it even using spans of oxen, but to no avail. To this day the chimney has survived, a curiously elegant ruin.

The giant granite boulder originally used to crush the gold is exhibited in the Geological Museum in Pretoria.

CHUNIESPOORT

Comprises a scenic passage through the Strydpoort Mountains approximately 32 km south of Pietersburg on the R37 to Burgersfort. A *Public Resort* on the banks of the Chuenespoort Dam nearby offers accommodation, a children's playground, licensed restaurant as well as two swimming pools and facilities for boating, watersports and angling. Rowing boats and canoes are available for hire. Hikes may be arranged up the Chuene Mountain overlooking the dam. A ferry provides pleasure trips on the dam and gives access to the *Lebowa Crocodile Pools* on the opposite side where crocodiles of various ages and sizes may be viewed. Refreshments and souvenirs are available at the refreshment kiosk. *Information:* call (0020) and ask for Mogodumo 5 or 7.

ZEBEDIELA CITRUS ESTATE

Situated 55 km south of Pietersburg. Reached by taking the R519 some



VISIT THE LEBOWA CROCODILE POOLS BY FERRY



EERSTELING GOLD MINE MONUMENT



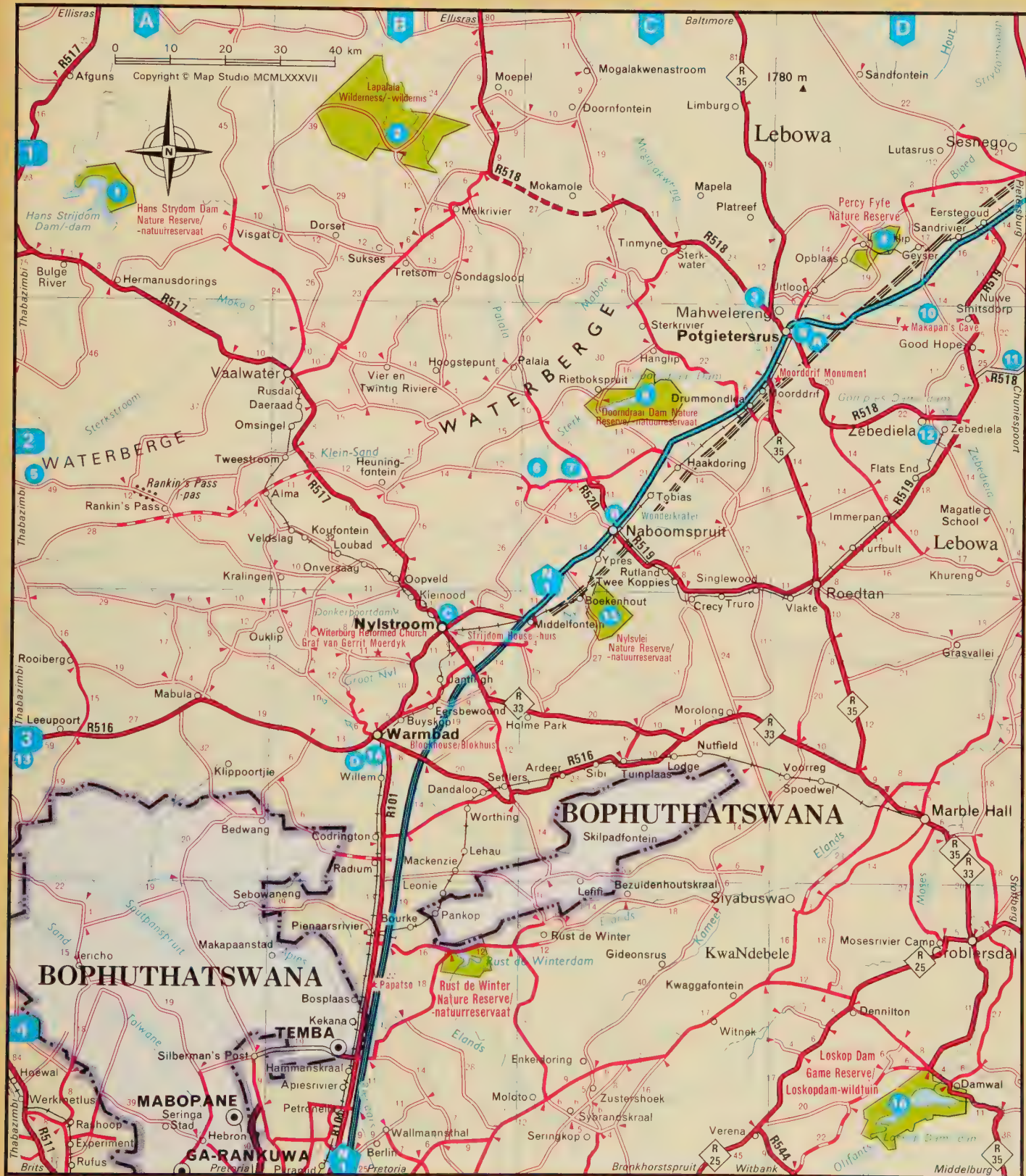
THE PICK OF THE CROP

MAP 5: THE AREA SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST OF PIETERSBURG

- 1 A1 Hans Strijdom Dam Nature Reserve
- 2 B1 Lapalala Wilderness
- 3 C1 Ana Trees
- 4 D1 Percy Fyfe Nature Reserve
- 5 A2 'Palace of Vultures'
- 6 C2 Frikkie Geyser Dam
- 7 C2 Mineral Spas
- 8 C2 Doorndraai Dam Nature Reserve
- 9 D2 Potgietersrus Nature Reserve and Game Breeding Centre
- 10 D2 Eersteling Gold Mine Monuments
- 11 D2 To Lebowa Crocodile Pools
- 12 D2 Zebediela Citrus Estate
- 13 A3 To Ben Alberts Nature Reserve
- 14 B3 Nature Reserve
- 15 C3 Nylsvlei Nature Reserve
- 16 D4 Loskop Dam Nature Reserve

TOURIST INFORMATION

- | | | |
|---|----|----------------------------------|
| A | D2 | Potgietersrus Information Bureau |
| B | C2 | Naboomspruit Municipality |
| C | B3 | Nylstroom Municipality |
| D | B3 | Warmbaths Municipality |



14 km out of Pietersburg or the R518 from Potgietersrus. The estate is considered to be the largest of its kind in the southern hemisphere and produces nearly 2,2 million cartons (15 kg each) of oranges annually. Highly mechanised, many of the world's most advanced handling techniques have their origin here. The main harvesting season is from April to June when the navel oranges mature and from August to October when the Valencias ripen. Visitors are welcome but prior arrangements must be made. *Information:* The Secretary, Zebediela Citrus (Pty) Limited, Zebediela 0627. Call (0020) and ask for Zebediela 11.

POTGIETERSRUS

Situated on the N1 approximately 227 km from Pretoria and 43 km from Pietersburg. Named after the Voortrekker leader Piet Potgieter, the town is steeped in the history of the formative years of the Transvaal. Today it is the centre of a rich mining and agricultural area where minerals such as chromium, platinum, tin and asbestos are mined and tobacco is produced on a large scale. A *Biltong Festival* is held in October annually.

THINGS TO DO AND SEE

Ana Trees (NM)

Approximately 16 km out of town along the R518 to Botswana a clump of Ana or 'Apiesdoring' trees (*Acacia albida*) occur on the side of the road. The missionary David Livingstone is reputed to have camped under these trees during one of his expeditions. The eight mature trees vary in height between 18 and 24 m and the largest specimen measures six metres in circumference.

Arend Dieperink Museum

Voortrekker Road. Comprises valuable cultural historical collections. Exhibits include historical photographs and documents, household articles, a variety of guns and farm implements as well as ox-wagons and horse drawn carriages. The historical stone building housing the museum was originally built as a school and was also used as a hospital during the influenza epidemic of 1917. Open daily Mon.-Fri. 08h00-16h30; Sat. 09h00-13h00; Sun. 14h00-17h00. An *Information Bureau* is housed in the museum.

Historical Monuments

The grave of Commandant-General Piet Potgieter is located at the municipal offices in Ruiter Road. The first school lesson north of the Vaal River was reputed to have been given under the historical camel-thorn tree (*Acacia erioloba*) on the corner of Retief and Ruiter Roads.

Nature Reserve and Game Breeding Centre

Situated on the northern outskirts of the town. The reserve is the game breeding centre of the National Zoological Gardens of South Africa and specialises in rare species from all over the world including West African pygmy hippo, South American llama, Australian emu and Indian blackbuck. Indigenous species to be seen in the reserve are sable, nyala, wildebeest, Burchell's zebra, waterbuck and white and black rhino. The reserve which is approximately 800 ha in extent incorporates a picnic site with braai facilities overlooking the *Gert Combrink Dam*. Fine specimens of bushveld trees occur in the reserve many of which are numbered to facilitate identification according to the national tree list. Open daily 1 May-31 Aug. 08h00-17h30 and 1 Sept.-30 April 08h00-18h00. Admission is charged. *Information:* call (01541) 4314.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation establishments include two hotels and a caravan park on the outskirts of the town. A holiday resort is situated 10 km north-west of the town and a motel 23 km south of Potgietersrus.

TOURIST INFORMATION

The Town Clerk
Cnr Retief and Ruiter Streets
PO Box 34

POTGIETERSRUS 0600

Call (01541) 2244

THE WATERBERG

The Waterberg Mountains, so called because of the many streams, springs and swamps in the range, stretch for some 150 km through the Bushveld from Thabazimbi to the Lephalala River in the north-east. The southern slopes of the mountains are characterised by vertical cliffs and awesome rock formations whilst the northern slopes descend gradually to merge with the vast plains beyond. In addition to the spectacular mountain scenery the area offers a wealth of indigenous trees and shrubs.

On the cool green plateau of *Bakker Pass* proteas grow and small patches of evergreen forests occur in kloofs. The towering cliffs of the *Kransberg Mountains*, the highest range in the north-western Transvaal loom high above the pass. The highest peak towers more than 1 000 m above the surrounding flats, rising to a height of 2 100 m above sea level. The cliffs known as the '*Palace of the Vultures*' are the haunt of hundreds of Cape vultures, the largest single breeding colony of this threatened species in the country, and the delight of mountaineers. Access to the cliffs may be obtained from the farm Bergrus. *Information:* call (01537) 2321.

Various game ranches are situated in the Waterberg district. For further



FRUIT OF THE VINE, NYLSTROOM AREA



EUPHORBIAS



CHEETAH FARM NEAR LOSKOP DAM

information on hunting expeditions in the area call (015352) 96 or contact The Professional Hunters Association of South Africa, PO Box 781175, Sandton 2146. Call (011) 783 0920.

The Waterberg area is also known as the environment where poet and naturalist Eugene Marais penned his famous works on baboons and termites. During his sojourn in the area in the 1920s he discovered a rare and beautiful cycad but did not record details of the locality. Years later the species was rediscovered and named *Encephalartos eugene-maraisii* in honour of him and the area where it occurred declared a nature reserve (not open to the public).

NABOOMSPRUIT

Situated some 161 km from Pretoria at the foot of the Waterberg Range. Naboomspruit is known primarily for the numerous holiday resorts in the area, many of which have developed around mineral spas and scenic spots in the Waterberg Mountains to the north-west of the town. In the days of the *Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek* before the establishment of the present-day town, Doel Zeederberg's mailcoach on its Pretoria-Pietersburg run used to outspan at a spot close by, then known as Kauffman's shop.

The town which developed around a railway halt on the farm Naboomspruit owes its origin mainly to the discovery of minerals in the

area; tin in 1908, platinum in 1923 and fluorspar in the years 1924 to 1926. Tin and fluorspar are still mined today. Naboomspruit is also the centre of a thriving farming community where cattle-farming and the cultivation of maize, ground-nuts and tobacco are practised.

ACCOMMODATION

In addition to the various holiday resorts in the area there is a hotel and a caravan park in town.

CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

Typical of the Bushveld with hot summers and mild winters. The average rainfall is 650 mm per annum. In addition to the many euphorbias (*Euphorbia ingens*) which occur here the area boasts a variety of indigenous trees and shrubs.

RECREATION AND EXCURSIONS

The town offers facilities for golf, tennis, bowls and squash. Numerous game ranches in the vicinity cater for the hunting enthusiast. Scenic drives may be undertaken through the ruggedly beautiful Waterberg Mountains in the area. Information on routes obtainable from Town Clerk. The Nyl Valley Horse Trials are held annually, normally between January and March, on the farm Welgelegen in the district.

Doorndraai Dam Nature Reserve

Situated in the foothills of the Waterberg Mountains some 45 km south-west of Potgietersrus and

50 km north of Naboomspruit.

Access to the reserve is provided by signposted roads off the N1 between Naboomspruit and Potgietersrus leading to the southern and northern gates respectively. Besides the two access roads and the 14 km long stretch of road along the eastern shore of the dam between the two gates, roads are not suitable for conventional vehicles.

The reserve, approximately 7 000 ha in extent, surrounds the *Doorndraai Irrigation Dam* which in periods of good rain is an angler's dream containing blue kurper, red-breasted kurper, carp, yellow-fish, bass and several other species. Climatic conditions permitting, the dam also offers opportunities for various watersports. After the severe drought of recent years it has however been temporarily closed to watersports enthusiasts.

The vegetation of the area is mainly sour bushveld typical of the Waterberg Mountains which features, amongst others, the Transvaal silver-leaf, Cape beech, wild olive and wild syringa. The reserve specialises in the protection of rare species, especially the sable, roan and tsessebe. Sanctuary is also provided to leopard, kudu, waterbuck, zebra, wildebeest and giraffe.

Open daily 1 Oct.-30 Apr. 06h00-20h00 and 1 May-30 Sept. 06h00-18h00. No accommodation is available but camping is permitted. Facilities are limited. An information office is situated at the northern entrance to the reserve. *Information:* The Officer-in-Charge, Doorndraai Dam Nature Reserve, PO Box 983, Potgietersrus 0600. Call (015423) 629.

Frikkie Geyser Dam

Situated 18 km out of Naboomspruit on the road to the mineral baths. A popular angling resort with carp, kurper, black bass and barber abounding. Picnic sites are available but no ablution facilities or drinking water. Admission is charged. Open daily. *Information:* call (01534) 3 1111.

Mineral Spas

Various popular holiday resorts are situated in the vicinity of Naboomspruit, many within a radius of approximately 10-20 km from the town along the road signposted 'Mineral Baths'.

Accommodation at these resorts is available in self-contained units and varies from the rustic to the sophisticated while provision is also made for camping and caravanning. The emphasis at these resorts is on informal relaxation for the whole family and sporting and recreational requirements are well catered for.



RENOWNED RESORT AND MINERAL SPA

Facilities such as hot and cold water swimming pools, jaccuzis, tennis courts, a roller skating rink, trampolines, a miniature train and even a golf course are available. Private game and nature reserves and dams where angling and watersports may be enjoyed are also available to visitors. A bird sanctuary at one of the resorts has a variety of exotic birds. Many of the resorts have restaurants and shopping facilities and provide various forms of entertainment during peak holiday seasons. The mild winter climate experienced in this area makes it a popular year round holiday destination and visitors are advised to book well in advance. *Further information:* call the Town Clerk at (01534) 3 1111 or consult the relevant section in The South African Tourism Board's guide 'Where to Stay'. Coach tours to the various mineral resorts in the area may be arranged on demand. *Information:* SARTours (012) 294-2121/2122.

Nylsvlei Nature Reserve

Situated some 20 km south of Naboomspruit on the sprawling flood plain of the Nyl River. Reached by taking the Boekenhout turn off 13 km from Naboomspruit on the road to Nylstroom. The reserve is used by the CSIR to study the savannah ecosystem of South Africa. It is particularly well known for its prolific bird-life; the more than 400 species that have been recorded here include both aquatic birds drawn to the vlei and river as well as land birds attracted to the savannah woodland that flanks the water. Game species such as kudu, impala, roan and tsessebe inhabit the reserve. Guided tours are available. Visitors may only explore the reserve on foot. Limited camping facilities are available. A trail run by the Wilderness Leadership School traverses the flood plain. Call (011) 782 1613. The reserve is open daily 06h00-18h00. *Information:* The Officer-in-Charge, Nylsvlei Nature Reserve, PO Box 508, Naboomspruit 0560. Call (01534) 3 1074.

TOURIST INFORMATION

The Town Clerk
Cnr Louis Trichardt Avenue and Sixth Street
Private Bag X340

NABOOMSPRUIT 0560
Call (01534) 3 1111

NYLSTROOM

Situated some 40 km from Naboomspruit, approximately 130 km from Pretoria and 10 km north of the toll gate on the N1. Regarded as the principal centre of the fertile Waterberg area. The name

Nylstroom was chosen by an early group of Voortrekkers in the Northern Transvaal who, after consulting the map in the back of their bibles, mistook the north flowing river in the vicinity of the town for the source of the Nile. This misunderstanding was strengthened by the discovery of what appeared to be a ruined pyramid near the river. It was in fact a natural hillock and sacred burial ground of ancient chiefs.

Historic buildings in the town include the 'Hervormde Kerk' (NM) in Calvyn Street which dates from 1889 and *Strijdom House* in Church Street, residence of a former South African Prime Minister, Advocate J G Strijdom, and at present a museum. Open Mon.-Fri. 09h00-13h00, 14h00-17h00; Sun. 14h00-17h00. Closed on Good Friday and Christmas Day. The proposed *Waterberg Socio-Historical Open-Air Museum* on the outskirts of the town is still in the process of being established.

A *Grape Festival* is held annually in January to promote the table-grape industry which was recently established in the area.

A hotel in town offers accommodation as does a motel on the northern outskirts. A caravan park with a swimming pool, children's playground and restaurant is also available.

RECREATION AND EXCURSIONS IN THE VICINITY OF NYLSTROOM

Two holiday resorts in the vicinity of Melk River provide opportunities to enjoy the Northern Transvaal bushveld. Luxury thatched accommodation is available at a delightful resort situated in a vast parkland alongside a dam. Amenities include a swimming pool, recreation hall, driving range and restaurant. Watersports may be enjoyed on the dam and nature trails in the well wooded park which provides sanctuary for a variety of game. *Information:* call (012) 21 1778 or 325 3601/4.

The second resort is situated on the banks of the Lephalala River. Accommodation comprises either rondavels, flats, chalets or cabins. Camping and caravan sites are available as well as a tennis court, swimming pool and children's paddling pool. Hikes organised during school holidays. Angling in the river. *Information:* call (015352) ask for 2712.

Hans Strijdom Dam Nature Reserve

Located south of Ellisras. Reached by following the signposted road from Nylstroom. The 4 600 ha reserve was

established around the *Hans Strijdom Dam* to provide sanctuary to the rare roan antelope and Sharpe's grysbok which are indigenous to the Waterberg Mountains. The terrain varies from being hilly to mountainous. Vegetation is mostly savannah which makes for easy game viewing particularly during the winter months. The dam offers opportunities for angling and watersports. Camping facilities are available along the shore. Besides the access roads, there are no navigable roads in the reserve and game viewing is on foot under the guidance of nature conservation officers. *Information:* The Officer-in-Charge, Hans Strijdom Dam Nature Reserve, PO Box 473, Ellisras 0555. Call (01536) 3 3384.

Lapalala Wilderness

Located in the rugged Waterberg Mountains some 125 km from Nylstroom. Follow the R517 to Vaalwater (60 km), take turn off to *Melk River* and 40 km further on, the signposted gravel road to Melk River School. The wilderness area is reached 25 km further along this road.

Approximately 18 000 ha in extent, the reserve comprises a 50 km river frontage along the Lephalala and Blocklands Rivers, giving sanctuary to a wide variety of plant, animal and bird life. The area is the natural habitat of the rare and beautiful roan antelope and a research project on the preservation of the species is at present underway. Accommodation is available in self-contained chalets or in camping areas in the five bush camps on the river banks. To ensure privacy these camps are situated at a distance from one another. Each camp has its own walks, trails, fishing spots and swimming holes and offers plenty of scope for game watching. Canoes are available for trips on the river. As vehicles are not permitted in the wilderness area visitors are taken to their camps by conservation officers. A landing strip in the sanctuary caters for visitors wishing to arrive by air. Wilderness trails for individuals and groups catering for both adults and children are available under the guidance of professional field officers. *Information:* call (011) 53 8411 or 53 1814.

TOURIST INFORMATION

The Town Clerk
Cnr General Beyers, Plein and Field Streets
Private Bag X1008
NYLSTROOM 0510
Call (01531) 2211

THABAZIMBI

Situated some 126 km from Warmbaths and 129 km from Rustenburg. Lies amidst rugged mountain splendour at the foot of the Ysterberg with the impressive Kransberg, highest peak of the Waterberg range, in the background. The town is an important mining centre with iron ore and platinum being mined in the vicinity. Cattle and game ranching are practised extensively in the area.

Accommodation is available at the local hotel whilst caravan and camp sites are available under the bushveld trees in the municipal caravan park. A mineral resort some 18 km to the east of the town and other holiday resorts with a variety of facilities further cater for tourists wishing to stay over in the area.

RECREATION AND EXCURSIONS

Ben Alberts Nature Reserve

Situated seven kilometres south of Thabazimbi and reached by taking the signposted turn off five kilometres south of the town on the road to Northam. Set in a river valley flanked by steep hillsides, the reserve offers fine scenery and an abundance of game such as white rhino, giraffe, eland, kudu, gemsbok, red hartebeest and waterbuck. A network of roads traverse the reserve some leading to good vantage points on the high ground. A fenced picnic spot near one of the waterholes offers excellent scope for game viewing. Camping and caravan sites provide opportunities to stay overnight. Open daily 08h00-18h00. *Information:* The Officer-in-Charge, Ben Alberts Nature Reserve, PO Box 50, Thabazimbi 0380. Call (01537) 2 1509.

TOURIST INFORMATION

The Town Clerk
Van der Byl Street
PO Box 90

THABAZIMBI 0380

Call (01537) 2 1140

WARMBATHS

Situated approximately 100 km from Pretoria on the N1, the town is renowned for its mineral resort. The water which flows from a hot spring at approximately 22 000 litres per hour, is rich in sodium chloride, calcium carbonate and other salts and is thought to have restorative powers for sufferers of rheumatic ailments.

THINGS TO DO AND SEE

Blockhouse (NM)

Near railway station. Erected by the British during the Anglo-Boer War

(1899-1902) to protect the railway line from destruction by the Boer forces.

Mineral Spa

The beautifully landscaped public resort at the mineral spring offers luxury self-contained, air-conditioned chalets, family and single flats as well as camping and caravan sites. The highlight of the resort is an ultra-modern health complex which is open daily 07h00-12h30 and 14h00-17h00. Amenities include a huge indoor pool with underwater jets, a cooler plunge pool, a rheumatic pool as well as a hydro therapy department and modern biokinetic clinic with fully equipped gymnasium. The outdoor pools complex features a children's pool and wave pools. An à la carte restaurant, cafeteria and take-away kiosk are available on the premises and there are facilities for squash, tennis and badminton. *Information:* call (015331) 2200.

Nature Reserve

Adjoins the mineral spa and provides sanctuary for a variety of small game such as Burchell's zebra, ostrich, red hartebeest, impala and other buck. Only guided bus tours, lasting about one hour, and walking tours through the reserve are permitted. Consult the Information Centre of the mineral spa. Call (015331) 2200.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation establishments in Warmbaths are plentiful. Besides facilities at the spa, no less than four hotels and many chalets, holiday flats and boarding houses are available. Various holiday resorts with a wide variety of facilities are also situated in the area and include a private game reserve and a game ranch for trophy hunters.

HOW TO GET TO WARMBATHS

Accessible along the N1 highway or by means of the regular train service which operates from Pretoria and Johannesburg. An airstrip on the outskirts of the town caters for those who wish to fly to Warmbaths.

RECREATION AND EXCURSIONS

In addition to sports facilities at the mineral spa the town caters for golf, bowls, tennis, squash and cricket. Angling and picnicking may be enjoyed at the town dam some five kilometres out of Warmbaths.

Bird Park and Tea Garden

Approximately five kilometres from the mineral spa. Take Rustenburg/Thabazimbi Road and turn left at the first gravel road. Contains colourful

aviaries with exotic birds amongst shady indigenous trees in park-like setting. Refreshments available at kiosk and tea garden.

TOURIST INFORMATION

The Town Clerk
Voortrekker Road
PO Box 48
WARMBATHS 0480
Call (015331) 2111

GROBLERSDAL

Situated in the basin of the Olifants River some 20 km south of *Marble Hall* and 160 km from Pretoria. Serves an extensive irrigation farming area where sunflowers, groundnuts, maize, tobacco, rice, citrus and other crops are cultivated. The town has a shady caravan park with a swimming pool.

LOSKOP DAM NATURE RESERVE AND PUBLIC RESORT

Reached 30 km from Groblersdal along the R35. The reserve some 14 800 ha in extent lies on the banks of the Loskop Dam which impounds the Olifants River to provide irrigation for more than 26 000 ha of farm land. A large variety of game animals occur in the reserve, amongst them white rhino, zebra, waterbuck, sable antelope, nyala, giraffe and buffalo. Crocodile inhabit the dam. Birdlife in the reserve is prolific and more than 200 species have been identified. Private vehicles are not permitted in the reserve but bus tours operate from the adjoining public resort on Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays and during school holidays. *Information:* The Officer-in-Charge, Loskop Dam Nature Reserve, Private Bag X606, Groblersdal 0470. Call (01202) 4184.

The resort has been developed on the banks of the dam where summer days are pleasantly hot and winter brings warm sunny days and cool nights. Besides accommodation in self-contained, air-conditioned log cabins, a shady landscaped caravan park is available. Amenities include a restaurant, shop, swimming pool, paddling pool and children's play park. A spacious day visitor area is provided with barbecue facilities. Fuel is available.

Tennis, rowing, sailing, wind surfing, motorboating and angling may be enjoyed at the resort. Fish such as carp, blue kurpur and barbel provide opportunities for many fishing competitions. A nature trail leads through the indigenous vegetation behind the resort to a vantage point from where there are superb views of the dam and its surroundings. *Information:* call (01202) 3075.

Western Transvaal

Tourists wishing to escape from the rigours of city life for a while will find the Western Transvaal an area of great charm and tranquillity. Fields of maize and sunflowers stretch out as far as the eye can see and small rural centres that seem to have changed little since their establishment in the previous century, exude a sense of peace not easily experienced in the business and commercial centres where contemporary man toils.

Holiday opportunities in the area are plentiful and may be enjoyed at a variety of resorts, hotels and charming country hostels. Nature reserves throughout the area provide opportunities for holidaying close to nature whilst many dams and the strong flowing perennial Vaal River cater for anglers and watersports enthusiasts. And those with a strong sense of history will be fascinated by the romantic past of many of the towns where the discovery of both diamonds and gold at different times drew thousands of fortune seekers.

RUSTENBURG

Situated 105 km from Pretoria and 112 km from Johannesburg at the

western extreme of the Magaliesberg Range. Pleasant surroundings and a mild winter climate attract a great many holiday makers annually.

The town is the centre of a rich agricultural and mining district. Citrus, tobacco and cotton are produced on a large scale and the *Rustenburg Platinum Mine* is the largest single platinum producer in the world. Visits to the mine are permitted but must be arranged beforehand. Call (01421) 9 1011. The *Citrus Packing House* and the *Tobacco Research Institute* may also be visited. Call (01421) 2 2300 and 9 3171 respectively. An agricultural show is held annually in May.

THINGS TO DO AND SEE

Granite Replica, Seringa Tree Stump

Church Street, between Plein and Kroep Streets. Replica of stump of tree under which the 'Gereformeerde Kerk' was established by a group led by Paul Kruger in 1859.

Kwaggapan Park

Eastern outskirts of the town along the R30 from Johannesburg and Krugersdorp. Entrance reached via Heystek Street. A look-out tower

offers a beautiful view of the town. Picnic sites available.

Museum

Housed in the municipal building in Van Staden Street. Contains cultural-historical and archaeological exhibits. Open Mon.-Fri. 08h30-16h00; Sat. 09h00-13h00; Sun. 15h00-17h00; public holidays 09h00-13h00. Closed on the Day of the Vow, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Good Friday and Ascension Day. Admission free.

Paul Bodenstein Park

At the eastern entrance to the town on the R27 from Pretoria. Features a variety of waterbirds and a collection of animal sculptures by well-known South African artists.

AIRFIELD, STATION

Airfield: on the outskirts of the town on the R510. No scheduled flights available but visitors wishing to fly to Rustenburg may make use of the airfield. *Information:* call (01421) 2 8254 (office hours only).

Station: Zendeling Street. *Information and Reservations:* call (01421) 9 4111.

HOW TO GET TO RUSTENBURG

The town is situated at the junction of several main roads approximately one hour's drive from Johannesburg and Pretoria. Regular passenger train services operate from the two centres.

CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

Rustenburg has a pleasant climate with cool nights and moderate to warm days. The sun shines an average of nine hours per day virtually throughout the year. Average rainfall is 674 mm per annum falling mainly from November to March. The vegetation is luxuriant with jacaranda, poinciana and other exotic species such as hibiscus, frangipani, poinsettia and bougainvillea.

RECREATION AND EXCURSIONS

The local golf club off Malan Street and the municipal swimming pool (cnr Marais and Church Streets) are open to visitors, while angling and watersports may be enjoyed at two dams in the vicinity. Hotels and resorts in the vicinity offer various sports facilities. The Magaliesberg Range offers wonderful opportunities for walks and hikes.

Boekenhoutfontein

Approximately 25 km out of town on



A FEATURE OF THE WESTERN TRANSVAAL



PAUL KRUGER'S HOMESTEAD



MIDTOWN MALL, RUSTENBURG

the R565 to Sun City. *Paul Kruger's homestead (NM)* — he farmed in the district until his exile in 1902 — and three other pioneer cottages may be seen. Conducted tours available. Open Tues.-Sat. 08h00-13h00, 14h00-17h00; Sun. 11h00-13h00 and 14h00-17h00. Closed Mondays, Christmas Day and Good Friday. Admission charged. *Information:* call (0142232) and ask for 1421.

Bospoort Dam

Some 15 km north of Rustenburg. Take R510 out of town and turn onto Beestekraal Road. Beautifully situated amongst granite hills. Opportunities for angling and watersports. Picnic sites available. Day visitors only. Admission free.

Olifantsnek Dam

Approximately 15 km south of Rustenburg on the R30. The road to the dam leads past indigenous trees, tobacco fields and citrus groves. The dam empounds the waters of the Hex River where it breaks through the Magaliesberg Range by means of a narrow pass. Scenic views from the *Olifantsnek Pass*. Good angling opportunities. A hotel is situated on the banks of the dam. Call (01421) 9 2208 or 9 2100.

Rustenburg Kloof

On the western outskirts of the town amidst the splendid scenery and indigenous vegetation of the Magaliesberg. Reached via Malan Street. Fully equipped chalets, camping and caravan park available. Amenities include tearoom, restaurant, swimming pools, water slide, tennis courts, roller skating rink and facilities for various indoor sports. Ample opportunities for walks through the unspoilt surroundings. Swimming permitted in natural pools in mountain streams. Day visitors welcome. *Information:* call (01421) 3 1062.

Rustenburg Nature Reserve

Situated on the summit and along the northern slopes of the Magaliesberg Range on the outskirts of Rustenburg. A wide range of ecosystems in the reserve account for the abundant birdlife. A large breeding colony of the endangered Cape vulture is situated a few kilometres east of the reserve and the birds are often sighted. Martial eagles and black eagles are also frequently seen. Game such as sable antelope, waterbuck, kudu, red hartebeest, blesbok, springbok and eland flourish. Amenities include a visitors' centre as well as picnic and camping sites. A circular tour of the reserve, conducted by a conservation officer,

offers excellent opportunities for game viewing. Open daily 08h00-16h00.

The *Rustenburg Trail* leads over a distance of 22 km through the reserve and takes two days to complete. Overnight facilities available. Advance booking required. The *Peglerae Interpretive Trail* of four kilometres through the reserve takes about two hours to complete. *Information:* The Officer-in-Charge, Rustenburg Nature Reserve, PO Box 511, Rustenburg 0300. Call (01421) 3 1050.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Publicity and Tourism Bureau
Municipality Offices
Plein Street

RUSTENBURG 0300

Call (01421) 2 8411 X 238

SWARTRUGGENS

Some 57 km from Rustenburg. Named after a series of black ridges in the area the town serves a cattle ranching and irrigation farming community. Diamonds are mined some eight kilometres north of the town. The *Elandsrivier Dam* approximately two kilometres south of the town offers opportunities for angling and boating. There is also a caravan park and a swimming pool. *Lindleyspoort Dam* to the north of the town offers angling and various forms of watersports. Open daily 06h00-19h00. *Information:* call the Town Clerk (014262) 23.

KOSTER

Thirty four kilometres south-east of Swartruggens. An agricultural and diamond mining centre. Scene of one of the most recent diamond rushes in the country when in November 1970 some 167 diggers raced to stake their claims. The *Koster Dam* on the outskirts of the town provides recreational opportunities and a caravan park. *Information:* call the Town Clerk (0142412) and ask for 9.



THE MAJESTIC MARTIAL EAGLE



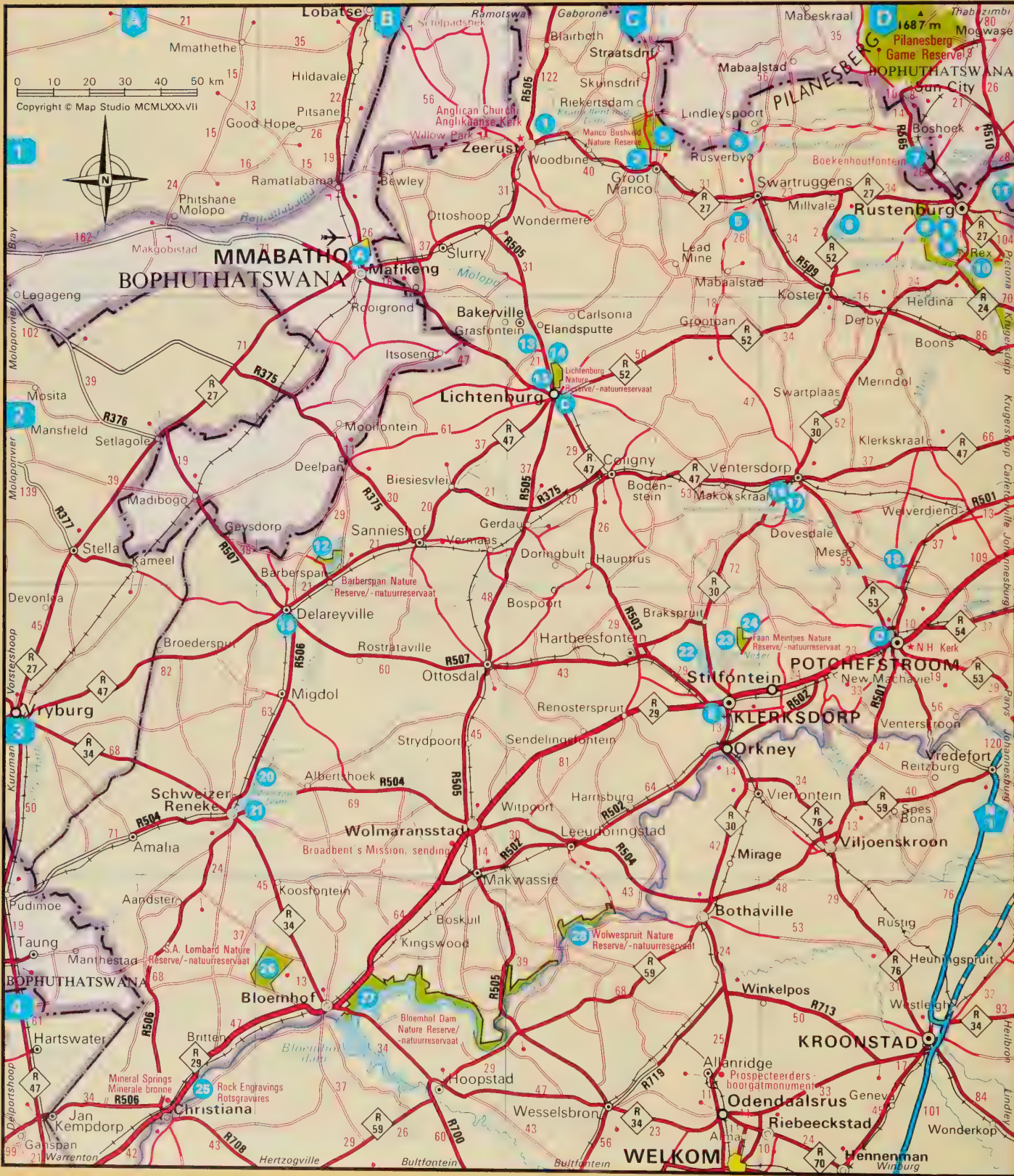
RUSTENBURG KLOOF

MAP 6: WESTERN TRANSVAAL

- 1 C1 Klein Maricospoort Dam
- 2 C1 Mampoer Route
- 3 C1 Marico Bushveld Dam and Nature Reserve
- 4 C1 Lindleyspoort Dam
- 5 C1 Elandsrivier Dam
- 6 D1 Koster Dam
- 7 D1 Boekenhoutfontein
- 8 D1 Rustenburg Kloof
- 9 D1 Rustenburg Nature Reserve and Trail
- 10 D1 Olifantsnek Dam
- 11 D1 Bospoort Dam
- 12 B2 Barberspan Nature Reserve
- 13 C2 Diamondfields
- 14 C2 Lichtenburg Nature Reserve and Game Breeding Farm

- 15 C2 Dauth-Roode and Centenary Dams
- 16 D2 Elandskuil Dam
- 17 D2 Rietspruit Dam
- 18 D2 Boskop Dam
- 19 B3 Bushman Paintings
- 20 B3 Bushman Paintings
- 21 B3 Wentzel Dam
- 22 C3 Johan Naser Dam
- 23 C3 Prehistoric Rock Engravings
- 24 C3 Faan Meintjes Nature Reserve
- 25 A4 Prehistoric Rock Engravings
- 26 B4 SA Lombaard Nature Reserve
- 27 B4 Bloemhof Dam Nature Reserve
- 28 C4 Wolwespruit Nature Reserve

- TOURIST INFORMATION
- A B1 Bophuthatswana Directorate of Tourism
 - B D1 Rustenburg Publicity and Tourism Bureau
 - C C2 Lichtenburg Publicity Association
 - D D3 Potchefstroom Municipality
 - E C3 Klerksdorp Tourism Information Centre



Marico District

The Marico District, stretching from Groot Marico in the east to Botswana in the west and from Bophuthatswana in the north to the latitude of Mafikeng in the south, incorporates the towns and villages of Zeerust, Groot Marico and Ottoshoop. Known as the world of champion storyteller Oom Schalk Lourens, the literary character created by Herman Charles Bosman, the area and its people have a special charm and fascination reminiscent of an age gone by.

Part of this fascination lies in the mampoer culture of the area. This extremely potent brew has been distilled by generations of local inhabitants from peaches, apricots and in fact any fruit except grapes. To promote the culture and the area an annual festival is held in Zeerust and a *Mampoer Route* has recently been established.

The route not only introduces visitors to the art of distilling this fiery liquor which by law may be distilled only under license, but also incorporates a trout breeding farm, game farm and holiday resort. Other places of interest along the route include the little school where Bosman taught and Abjaterskop where Oom Schalk Lourens once lay beside a leopard in the shade of a 'withaak'. The route of approximately 60 km starts at Groot Marico and ends at Zeerust. Further information may be obtained from the Town Clerk of Zeerust. Call: (01428) 2 1081.

Unlike the vast flat plains of maize and sunflower fields encountered further south in the Western Transvaal, the Marico countryside comprises undulating bushveld featuring many indigenous trees such as the karee, tambotie, wild olive, red syringa and umbrella thorn. Carpenters in the area produce beautiful furniture from the locally grown wood.

GROOT MARICO

Situated in the fertile valley of the Groot Marico River some 31 km from Swartruggens. Marble, slate and andalusite are mined in the district. Dolomite caves where many animal fossils have been discovered are located close to the town. The *Marico Bushveld Dam* (also known as the *Riekerks Dam*) 21 km north of the town is a popular boating, waterskiing and angling venue. The

Marico Bushveld Nature Reserve adjacent to the dam contains more than 60 species of indigenous trees and a great many birds. Caravan sites are available. Open daily 06h00-19h00.

ZEERUST

Situated some 40 km from Groot Marico close to the Botswana border. Serves a mining and agricultural community. A Museum in the Town Hall is devoted to local history. Open Mon.-Fri. 08h00-17h00. *Klein Maricospoort Dam* some five kilometres east of Zeerust offers opportunities for waterskiing and angling. Picnic sites are available. A holiday resort is situated on the banks of the Groot Marico River in the vicinity of the town. A *Mampoer Festival* is held in Zeerust annually. Sports facilities in town include a nine-hole golf course as well as bowling greens, tennis courts and badminton courts. *Information:* call the Town Clerk (01428) 2 1081.

LICHTENBURG

Approximately 83 km from Zeerust and 230 km west of Johannesburg on the main route to Mmabatho. A vleis consisting of thick layers of peat, the product of millions of years of marsh vegetation which burnt subterraneously for many years, runs through the town. Today this once hazardous area known as the 'Burning Vlei' forms a green belt through the town providing opportunities for picnics and a sanctuary for birdlife. The *Dauth-Roode* and the *Centenary Dams* which drained the vleis and submerged the burning areas are popular venues for water sports and angling.

The history of Lichtenburg is closely associated with the life of General De la Rey of Anglo-Boer War fame who lived here. A Museum on *De la Rey Square* is devoted largely to the life of the General. Open Tues.-Fri. 10h00-12h00, 13h00-17h00; Sat. 10h00-13h00. An Art Gallery containing a valuable collection of South African paintings is housed in a wing of the public library in Mellville Street. Open Mon.-Fri. 09h00-18h00; Sat. 09h00-12h00.

RECREATION AND EXCURSIONS

In addition to watersports and

angling already mentioned, a nine-hole golf course is available, also facilities for tennis, squash, swimming and radio-controlled motor car and aircraft sport. Regular motor and motorbike races are held at the Sport Car Club.

Barberspan Nature Reserve

Located some 81 km south-west of Lichtenburg, approximately 21 km north-east of Delareyville. Barberspan, a large natural freshwater lake, is the focal point of the 3 100 ha reserve and the largest waterfowl sanctuary in the Transvaal. Various species of ducks, waders, herons, egrets and coots are among the more than 350 species of birds that frequent the area. Large numbers of flamingoes may also be found on the lake. A hide is available for photographers. The pan supports a large population of carp, yellow-fish, mud-fish and barbel and is a regular venue for fishing competitions. The south-eastern shore is set aside for anglers and facilities here include a camping and caravan site. The dam is a popular haunt of water sport enthusiasts. A hotel on the banks of the pan provides accommodation. *Information:* The Officer-in-Charge, Barberspan Nature Reserve, P O Barberspan 2765. Call (0144322) 1202.

Diamond Fields

Approximately 20 km north of Lichtenburg stretching over a distance of some 35 km from east to west. The area was the scene of the greatest diamond rush in the country when in 1926, after the discovery of an alluvial diamond in an ancient, dried up river course on the farm Elandsputte, close on 100 000 fortune seekers flocked to the area. Although the diamonds were of high quality, it took only about ten years to exhaust the original shallow river valley and for the dust to settle after the initial frenzied activity. At the height of the rush it is said that the frantic excavation created so much dust that cars had to keep their headlights on all day! Today all that remains is the scarred surface of the earth, rusty implements and a few old timers still trying their luck. At *Bakerville* (turn off from R505 signposted) some of the original fortune seekers still live in simple corrugated iron homes dating from this period. Would-be

treasure hunters are reminded that one may not look for diamonds without a prospector's licence!

Lichtenburg Nature Reserve and Game Breeding Farm

On the north-eastern border of the town. Contains a variety of game from all over the world such as cheetah, white rhino, hippo, dwarf hippo, sabre gazelle, Derby eland, black wildebeest, zebra and addax. Abundant water in the area creates a paradise for several swan species, flamingoes, wild duck, coots and herons. A hide is well situated for bird watchers and photographers. Braai facilities available under shady trees. Open Sept.-March 08h00-18h00; April-Aug. 08h00-17h30. Admission is charged. *Information:* call (01441) 2 2818. The *Municipal Caravan Park* adjoins the nature reserve. A swimming pool is available here.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Lichtenburg Publicity Association
The Town Clerk
Cnr Melville and Transvaal Streets
PO Box 7

LICHTENBURG 2740

Call (01441) 2 5051

DELAREYVILLE

Situated approximately 103 km from Lichtenburg in an area characterised by numerous saltpans, one of which, opposite the railway station on the outskirts of the town, is frequented

by large numbers of flamingoes. *Bushman paintings* occur in the vicinity of the town. *Information:* call the Town Clerk (0144312) and ask for 1.

SCHWEIZER-RENEKE

Sixty three kilometres from Delareyville. Serves a maize farming community. Huge grain silos dominate the skyline. *Wentzel Dam* on the outskirts of the town is a popular venue for angling and watersports. Facilities include a swimming pool, camping and caravan sites. *Bushman paintings* estimated to be 20 000 years old may be seen in the vicinity. *Information:* call the Town Clerk (01801) 3 1331.

POTCHEFSTROOM

Potchefstroom, situated 47 km from Klerksdorp and 119 km from Johannesburg, was established on the banks of the Mooi River as the first town north of the Vaal River in 1838. It later became the first capital of the *Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek* and to this day has retained much of the charm of those early days as is evident from the many old buildings in the town and the irrigation furrows on either side of some of the older streets.

The valley of the Mooi River is one of the most fertile and well-watered regions in the Transvaal and the area is noted for its production of grain, sunflower seed, lucerne, beef, dairy products and vegetables.

The town is also the seat of the *Potchefstroom University*, where an ethnological museum and a collection of contemporary works of art may be viewed by appointment. Call (01481) 2 7511.

THINGS TO DO AND SEE

'Hervormde Kerk' (NM)

Situated in front of the town hall. Inaugurated in 1866, it is the oldest church north of the Vaal River in which services are still held.

Old Fort and Cemetery (NM)

The remains of the fort may be seen opposite the station on the road to Klerksdorp. A British garrison was besieged here for close on three months by the Boer forces under General Piet Cronjé during the Transvaal War of Independence (1880-81).

Potchefstroom Museum

Cnr Wolmarans and Gouws Street. Contains valuable cultural and historical collections which include old weapons and household articles, one of the original ox wagons used at the Battle of Blood River (1838) and 75 paintings by the celebrated German artist Otto Landsberg. Guides available on request. Call (01481) 3295/6. Open Mon.-Fri. 10h00-13h00, 14h00-17h00; Sat. 09h00-12h45; Sun. 14h30-17h00.

Powder Magazine

Off the road to Klerksdorp in the



POTCHEFSTROOM UNIVERSITY CAMPUS



RECALLING THE ADVENTURES OF THE DAY



TOTIUS MEMORIAL, POTCHEFSTROOM

industrial area. One of the oldest buildings in the town, dating back to approximately 1857. Used during both the Transvaal War of Independence (1880-81) and the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902).

President Pretorius Museum (NM)

Van der Hoff Road on the way to Boskop Dam. Comprises the restored home of President M W Pretorius which dates from 1868 as well as the original stable, coach-house and smithy. Admission free. Guides available. Open Mon.-Fri. 10h00-13h00, 14h00-17h00; Sat. 09h00-12h45; Sun. 14h30-17h00.

Totius House Museum

Molen Street. Former residence of the Afrikaans author, poet and translator of the bible, Jacob Dániël du Toit, better known as Totius. The house contains many authentic heirlooms and a large section of Totius's collection of books. Admission free. Guides available. Open Mon.-Fri. 10h00-13h00, 14h00-17h00; Sat. 09h00-12h45; Sun. 14h30-17h00.

CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

Potchefstroom has a typical highveld climate with warm to hot summers and cold winters. Summer rain averages 600 mm. Avenues of oak trees, willow trees along the Mooi River and many colourful parks and gardens enhance the town.

RECREATION AND EXCURSIONS

Facilities in town cater for most

forms of sport and the shady banks of the Mooi River offer ample opportunities for angling and picnicking. The 18-hole golf course on the banks of the Mooi River welcomes visitors. A *Holiday and Recreation Resort* on the banks of the *Potchefstroom Dam* approximately six kilometres from the centre of town offers a variety of facilities such as a swimming pool, tennis courts, children's playpark, water tube, putt-putt course and roller skating rink. The dam is a popular venue for angling and water sports. Accommodation is available in the form of holiday houses, rondavels and a camping and caravan site and there is a licensed restaurant and a tea room. Call (01481) 2 5144.

Boskop Dam

Some 15 km from the town on the road to Welverdiend. A popular angling and yachting resort. Picnic site available. Camping site available only to members and visiting members of the Boskop Dam Yachting Club. The dam is the venue for provincial and national regattas. Admission free.

Oudedorp (Old Town)

Various old buildings, water canals and orchards dating back to the original settlement of 1838 may be seen some 12 km from Potchefstroom on the road to Ventersdorp. Exact location may be obtained from the museum. Call (01481) 3295/6.

TOURIST INFORMATION

The Town Clerk

Cnr Wolmarans and Gouws Street
PO Box 113

POTCHEFSTROOM 2521

Call (01481) 2 5112 X 114

VENTERSDORP

Situated at the intersection of the R30 and R47 on the banks of the Schoonspruit some 55 km from Potchefstroom. Serves a large grain-producing farming community.

Two dams close to the town offer angling opportunities: the *Elandskuil Dam* some three kilometres from the town on the road to Klerksdorp and the *Rietspruit Dam* approximately 12 km from the town on the road to Potchefstroom. A caravan park is situated on the banks of the Schoonspruit. Sporting facilities include a swimming pool and a golf course. *Information:* call the Town Clerk (01480) 2051.

STILFONTEIN

Situated on the Western Transvaal goldfields. Established in 1949 as residential centre for the *Hartebeestfontein*, *Buffelsfontein* and *Stilfontein Gold Mines*. Tours of the mines are conducted weekly. Prior arrangements must be made. Call: Chamber of Mines (011) 838 8211. *Republic Park* on the outskirts of the town features a lake and a variety of waterfowl. Picnic and braai sites are available and angling is permitted.



THE ELEGANT FLAMINGO



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A LOCAL DELICACY



MUCH OPPORTUNITY FOR SAILING

The Strathvaal Recreation Club offers tennis and squash courts, bowling greens and a swimming pool, all available to visitors. Call (018) 4 3571. *Information:* call the Town Clerk (018) 4 1471.

KLERKSDORP

An important gold and uranium producing centre some 47 km from Potchefstroom. Established in 1837, Klerksdorp is the oldest white settlement in the Transvaal. After the discovery of gold in 1885 the predominantly farming community changed virtually overnight into a raucous shanty town with close on 70 bars, numerous stores and even a stock exchange. By the early 1890's the boom was over. Rising production costs made mining unprofitable. After the Second World War improved mining techniques and greater capital investment revived the industry. An important agricultural centre, Klerksdorp is also the headquarters of one of the largest grain co-operatives in the Southern Hemisphere. An agricultural show is held in April annually.

THINGS TO DO AND SEE

'Goudkoppie'

On the outskirts of the town on the road to Stilfontein. Old mining shafts dating from the 1880's may be seen as well as inscriptions on the rocks made by members of British regiments who camped here during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902).

An open-air museum recreating an old time mining town is being planned for this site.

Hendrik Potgieter Road

On the western banks of Schoonspruit where the Voortrekkers settled in 1837. The oldest street in town containing houses which vary from small functional dwellings to gracious homes dating from the previous century and early days of the present century. The houses are not open to the public.

Museum

Cnr Lombaard and Magaretha Prinsloo Streets. The museum is housed in the *Old Prison*, built in 1891 and used as such until 1973, and incorporates the *Powder Magazine* built during the previous century and reconstructed on this site. Contains fascinating cultural historical, archaeological and geological collections. The wrought iron gates at the entrance to the museum hail from the Klerksdorp Stock Exchange which was demolished many years ago. Open Mon.-Fri. 10h00-13h00, 14h00-17h00; Sat. 09h30-12h30; Sun. and public holidays 14h00-17h00.

Closed Good Friday, Day of the Vow and Christmas Day.

Planthouse

Situated in the attractive municipal gardens bounded by Church, Pretoria, Emily Hobhouse and Voortrekker Streets. Contains a magnificent variety of exotic plants. Open daily 08h00-16h30.

RECREATION AND EXCURSIONS

Sports facilities in town cater for swimming, tennis, squash, golf and bowls. A parachute club operates at the *P C Pelsner Aerodrome* on the outskirts of the town. Call (018) 2 5182 (after hours). A radio controlled car racing club also operates in the town. Call (018) 2 6606 (after hours).

Faan Meintjes Nature Reserve

Approximately 10 km from town. Take Church Street out of town, turning into Brady Avenue. From this point follow the signposts. The reserve is 1 300 ha in extent and provides sanctuary for a variety of game such as buffalo, giraffe, zebra, white rhino, black wildebeest, eland, gemsbok, sable, blesbok and springbok. Some have bred so prolifically that culling takes place annually. Trophy hunters may participate. Open daily, winter 10h00-17h00 and summer 10h00-18h00. Gates close for incoming visitors in winter, 15h00 and summer 16h00. Admission is charged. Picnic site available. *Information:* call (018) 8 1185 or 2 5700.

Johan Neser Dam

Some eight kilometres out of town on the road to Ventersdorp. A popular venue for angling and water sports. A pleasure resort on the banks of the dam caters for day visitors. Amenities include a children's playground, super tube, swimming pool, trampolines and tearoom. Call (018) 2 0108. A caravan park is situated on the banks of the dam close by.

Prehistoric Rock Engravings (NM)

Situated on a hill at Bosworth, some 16 km from Klerksdorp on the road to Ventersdorp. Date possibly from the Later Stone Age.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Tourist Information Centre
Planthouse
Cnr Pretoria and Emily Hobhouse Streets

KLERKSDORP 2570

Call (018) 2 6220

ORKNEY

Situated on the banks of the Vaal River approximately 180 km from Johannesburg and 13 km from Klerksdorp. The town is an important gold mining centre and one

of the world's largest gold mining companies operate in the vicinity. *Information:* call the Town Clerk (018) 3 1451.

A *Resort* (signposted) on the banks of the Vaal River on the outskirts of the town offers excellent opportunities for angling and watersports. In addition to self-contained chalets there is an attractive camping and caravan site. Recreation facilities provide for tennis, swimming, roller-skating, badminton and table tennis while the playpark features go-carts, trampolines, a water slide and mini putt-putt courses. Swimming in the river is prohibited. A well-equipped restaurant provides meals and snacks. Day visitors are welcome at the resort which is open 07h00-21h00. Admission is charged. Call (018) 3 3228.

WOLMARANSSTAD

Situated 81 km from Orkney on the R29. Established on the banks of the Makwassie Spruit in 1891, the town became an important stopover on the postal route between Johannesburg and Kimberley. A *dam* on the northern outskirts of the town offers angling opportunities. The *Makwassie Nature Conservation Area* was recently established some 10 km to the east of the town. Facilities are not yet available and game is still limited. *Information:* call (01811) 2 2310 (preferably evenings). A shady caravan park is laid out on the banks of the Makwassie Spruit. *Information:* call the Town Clerk (01811) 2 1067.

LEEUDORINGSTAD

A small rural centre some 64 km from Orkney which hit the headlines on 17 July 1932 when a train carrying dynamite to the Witwatersrand goldfields exploded and derailed two kilometres from the town. Photographs of this disaster and relics of the town's history may be viewed at the library in Smuts Street. Open Wed. and Fri. 09h00-12h00, 14h00-17h00; Mon., Tues. and Thurs. 14h00-18h00. *Information:* call the Town Clerk (01813) 2026.

RECREATION AND EXCURSIONS

Wolwespruit Nature Reserve

Situated on the Vaal River some 22 km from Leeudoringstad. A popular angling resort. Game encountered in the 2 500 ha reserve includes blesbok, red hartebeest, black wildebeest, zebra, impala, steenbok and duiker. Camping is permitted on the banks of the river amidst attractive riverine vegetation. No booking or prior arrangements are required. The reserve is open daily.

To reach it take the road from Leeudoringstad to Orkney and turn right at Kommandodrif road. Two kilometres further on turn left at the signpost to Klipspruit. Continue for 20 km and turn right to Rustfontein. The entrance is found just beyond the bridge over the Klipspruit. *Information:* The Officer-in-Charge, Wolwespruit Nature Reserve, Leeudoringstad 2640. Call (01813) 705.

MAKWASSIE

A railway junction and small agricultural centre approximately 12 km south of Wolmaransstad. Claims the birth in 1823 of the first white child in the province. The *Town Hall* built in 1910, is reputedly the oldest in the Transvaal. A caravan park lies on the banks of the town dam. *Information:* call the Town Clerk (01811) 4300.

BLOEMHOF

A maize centre some 64 km from Wolmaransstad where dairy products are also produced. To the north, east and west of the town evidence of the diamond diggings of the 1870's may still be seen. The municipal camping, caravan park and swimming pool are situated on the outskirts of the town on the banks of the Vaal River. *Information:* call the Town Clerk (018022) 17.

RECREATION AND EXCURSIONS

Bloemhof Dam Nature Reserve

Some 14 000 ha in extent, this reserve lies on the shores of the *Bloemhof Dam* which empounds the waters of the Vaal and the Vet Rivers to the south-east of Bloemhof. An impressive barrage spans the Vaal River south of Bloemhof. Access to the reserve is provided by three gates: Hoopstad Bridge, Verlatenkraal and Bamboesspruit. Hoopstad Bridge Gate is reached approximately five kilometres from Bloemhof on the R34 to Hoopstad, just before crossing the dam wall.

Although game species such as black wildebeest, eland, red hartebeest, blesbok, springbok, zebra, ostrich and white rhino are found in the reserve, most visitors are drawn by the excellent fishing potential of the dam with species such as carp, yellow-fish, mud-fish and barbel abounding. Visitors wishing to view game should enter the reserve through the Verlatenkraal and Bamboesspruit Gates along the road to Wolmaransstad. Permission to enter and directions may be obtained from the Officer-in-Charge. Hunting is also a popular pursuit in the reserve. During the hunting season,

1 May-31 Aug., the Verlatenkraal and Bamboesspruit gates are closed to the public. *Information:* The Officer-in-Charge, Bloemhof Dam Nature Reserve, Private Bag X7, Bloemhof 2660. Call (018022) 1122.

S A Lombaard Nature Reserve

Situated some 17 km out of town. Take R34 to Schweizer-Reneke, after five kilometres turn left at sign indicating reserve and continue for 12 km on gravel road. Comprises some 3 660 ha of flat grassveld with scattered clumps of thorn trees. After heavy rains a large pan in the reserve is a popular haunt of waterfowl. More than 250 species of birds such as the black korhaan, whitebrowed sparrowweaver, anteating chat and blue crane have been spotted. Essentially a reserve for the breeding of highveld game species. Day visitors are welcome but must make prior arrangements. *Information:* The Officer-in-Charge, S A Lombaard Nature Reserve, P O Box 174, Bloemhof 2660. Call (018022) 4203.

CHRISTIANA

Situated on the northern banks of the Vaal River on the national road between Johannesburg and Cape Town and some 47 km from Bloemhof. Diamonds discovered in the gravels of the Vaal River in 1870 led to the hurried establishment of the town. The rush of diggers to the area transformed the small settlement into a boom town with a rowdy population of prospectors, diamond dealers and liquor sellers. Mining today continues on a limited scale. Relics and photographs of the boom era are displayed in the restaurant at a nearby mineral spa. A municipal caravan park lies on the banks of the Vaal River.

RECREATION AND EXCURSIONS

The Vaal River in the vicinity of the town is an angler's paradise with carp and yellow-fish abounding. The river also offers excellent boating opportunities and is navigable for approximately 30 km.

A *Mineral Spa* is situated on the banks of the Vaal River some three kilometres north-east of the town. Accommodation is available in self-contained rondavels or luxury rooms. Amenities include a self-service cafeteria, à la carte restaurant, beer garden, shop, liquor store, recreation hall and filling station as well as an indoor rheumatic pool, open-air swimming pool and kiddies pool. Sports facilities provide for tennis, bowls, rollerskating, riding, rugby and jukskei. Angling is a popular pastime. A caravan park and camping site is available. In addition

the resort comprises a 2 300 ha game reserve in which game such as white rhino, black wildebeest, springbok, zebra, gemsbok, eland and other species of antelope may be seen. Day visitors are welcome. *Information:* call (0534) 2244.

Prehistoric Rock Engravings (NM) may be seen on the farm Stowlands-on-Vaal some six kilometres from the town. Take the road to Hertzogville, 500 m after crossing the Vaal River turn left and follow the river upstream for three kilometres. The site is on a low koppie near the farmhouse.

TOURIST INFORMATION

The Town Clerk

Robyn Street

PO Box 13

CHRISTIANA 2680

Call (0534) 2206/7/8

Bophuthatswana

The independent Republic of Bophuthatswana consisting of seven geographical units, five of which are easily accessible from the Western Transvaal, is perhaps best known to the tourist for that mecca of entertainment, the *Sun City* complex. Luxurious hotels and cabanas, restaurants with delectable cuisine, ever popular casinos and entertainment extravaganzas featuring top international stars all combine to make this one of the most prestigious holiday resorts in Southern Africa. Excellent sporting facilities, including what is considered to be one of the finest golf courses in Southern Africa, and beautifully landscaped gardens further enhance this glamorous complex.

But Bophuthatswana does not cater only for city slickers who seek sophisticated entertainment and surroundings. A number of nature reserves such as the magnificent *Pilanesberg National Park* adjacent to the Sun City Complex present the other side of the African coin: a world of unspoilt natural beauty teeming with game indigenous to the

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At this stage no border between Bophuthatswana and the rest of South Africa and neither South African nor foreign visitors enter the country.

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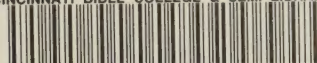
REALM OF THE GODDESS OF LUCK



OPULENCE INSIDE AND OUT

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South African Tourism Board

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Head Office:

South Africa (Head Office)

Menlyn Park Office Block
Cnr Atterbury Road and Menlyn Drive
Private Bag X164, Pretoria 0001
Tel. (012) 47 1131/348 9521
Tel. Add: SATOURIST PRETORIA
Telex: 3 20457 SA

Regional Offices:

Bloemfontein

Second Floor,
Penbel Building
29 Elizabeth Street
P.O. Box 3515
Bloemfontein 9300
Tel. (051) 47 1362
Telex: 26 7919 SA

Cape Town

Shop 16
Piazza Level 3
Golden Acre
Private Bag X9108
Cape Town 8000
Tel. (021) 21 6274
Telex: 5 24592 SA

Durban

Suite 520
Southern Life Centre
320 West Street
P.O. Box 2516
Durban 4000
Tel. (031) 304 7144
Telex: 6 21205 SA

East London

Fourth Floor
N.B.S. Building
Terminus Street
P.O. Box 1794
East London 5200
Tel. (0431) 2 6410
Telex: 25 0561 SA

George

124 York Street
P.O. Box 312
George 6530
Tel. (0441) 5228
Telex: 5 24646 SA

Gold Reef City

Shop 126
Randjieslaagteweg
Private Bag X1890
Gold Reef City 2159
Tel. (011) 494 3801/2

Jan Smuts Airport

International Arrivals Hall
Jan Smuts Airport 1627
Tel. (011) 970 1669
Telex: 430146 SA

Johannesburg

Suite 4611
Carlton Centre
P.O. Box 1094
Johannesburg 2000
Tel. (011) 331 5241
Telex: 4 89281 SA

Kimberley

Louverdis Building
Ground Floor
2 Market Square
Private Bag X5017
Kimberley 8300
Tel. (0531) 3 1434/2 2657
Telex: 28 0510 SA

Nelspruit

Ground Floor
Joshua Doore Centre
Cnr Louis Trichardt and
Paul Kruger Streets
P.O. Box 679
Nelspruit 1200
Tel. (01311) 5 2934/5
Telex: 3 35322 SA

Pietersburg

Cnr Vorster and
Landdros Maré Streets
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Pietersburg 0700
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